

Saleh criticises Saudis on Gulf crisis

NEW YORK (R) — The president of Yemen criticised Saudi Arabia for inviting U.S.-led forces into the kingdom and accused the Saudis of trying to destabilise his country in an interview published in the New York Times Friday. The president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, said in an interview in Sanaa, the Yemeni capital, that Riyadh had attempted to undermine his country's stability by forcing more than 500,000 Yemenis to leave neighbouring Saudi Arabia and return home. Saleh said the United States, the Soviet Union and several Arab countries had tried without success to persuade Saudi rulers to cancel moves against the estimated 1 million Yemenis living in the kingdom. The Times said officials in Washington confirmed Saleh's account. Saleh, who described Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as "an excellent Arab leader," said Yemen was neutral in the Gulf crisis. "We are not supporting any side, we are not aligned. We are not with Iraq, and, of course, we don't approve of the invasion of Kuwait," he said. "Yet at the same time, we don't approve of a foreign presence in the region," said Saleh.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة باللغة العربية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الراي)

Libya demands Italian compensation

TRIPOLI (R) — Libya marked the anniversary of its blackest day Friday, mourning its invasion 79 years ago by Italian troops and reviving demands for compensation from Rome. To mark the anniversary of what Tripoli calls "the blackest day in human history" — the start of mass deportations of Libyans to Italian jails in 1911 — Libyans cut itself from the outside world for 12 hours. "We are waiting for the day of true revenge," a local official, Mohammed Ahmad Abdullah, told a rally. "Italy must recognise the rights of this people to compensation and give complete lists of brutal sites and the whereabouts of Libyan deportees." Libya says 5,000 men, women and children were deported under Italian colonial rule from 1911 to 1912. A delegation of sons of deportees delivered compensation demands to the Italian embassy, but the event was observed with less frenzy than last year, when state media threatened Italian blood would flow if compensation was not paid. The anniversary has been marked annually since 1967 and Tripoli's white-washed buildings were draped in black cloth. Libyans pinned black patches on their shirts and tied black ribbons to the car axles.

Volume 15 Number 4531

AMMAN SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1990, RAB'ATHANI 8, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Egypt closes airspace to Sudanese plane

AMMAN (Petra) — The Sudanese ambassador to Jordan said Friday that Egyptian authorities had closed their airspace for Sudanese aircraft carrying Sudanese evacuees coming home from Iraq and Kuwait. The Egyptian measure took effect as of Wednesday Oct. 24. The ambassador said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the Egyptian authorities banned a Sudanese aircraft heading from Khartoum to Amman to carry Sudanese evacuees from flying through Egyptian airspace. The plane had to change its course in order to reach Amman, he said. The ambassador considered the Egyptian move as a violation of United Nations' laws governing air traffic and expressed his astonishment at such a decision which was taken at a time when all efforts are being intensified to ensure the safe return of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait to their homeland.

Senegal wants OIC summit postponed

CAIRO (R) — Senegalese Foreign Minister Seydina Oumar Sy said Friday his country would seek a postponement of next year's Islamic summit because of Arab divisions over the Gulf crisis. "Senegal refuses to be a capital for dividing the Muslim Nation," he told reporters after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. "...It wants to be the capital where the Islamic Nation reconciles (its differences)," he added. "So, we'll ask for a postponement of the conference." Senegal is due to host the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit in January and take over its chairmanship from Kuwait.

Washington mayor sentenced

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mayor Marion Barry was sentenced Friday to six months in prison, fined \$5,000 and given one year probation for his conviction on a misdemeanor cocaine possession charge. Barry declared himself "truly remorseful" and asked U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson for leniency. But Jackson told the mayor of the U.S. capital he had abused his office and the collective trust of the community. The sentencing ended a 10-month legal drama that began with the mayor's arrest Jan. 18 in a sting operation that caught him on videotape smoking crack cocaine with a former girlfriend.

Arab peacemakers discuss Lebanon

NICOSIA (R) — Arab peacemakers met in Saudi Arabia Friday to discuss developments in Lebanon after the defeat of rebel General Michel Aoun. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported, Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi and foreign ministers from Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria met in Jeddah to discuss their efforts to end Lebanon's 15-year-old civil war. They discussed steps taken by Lebanese President Elias Hrawi's government to unite the country and impose order in areas captured from Aoun.

Gemayel's accused assassin recovers

BEIRUT (AP) — Habib Shartouni, the accused assassin of President-elect Bashir Gemayel in 1982, is recovering from his seven years of solitary confinement, according to a report published Friday. Shartouni, 32, was freed from prison in the town of Roumieh two days after government and Syrian forces crushed Michel Aoun's 11-month mutiny Oct. 13. Roumieh had been controlled by the rebel forces. "He is undergoing a series of medical check-ups. Light bothers his eyes and loud noise annoys him. He rarely talks," said Anton Chayrayeb of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party to which Shartouni belongs. Chayrayeb, in an interview with the magazine Al-Shiraa, said Shartouni's fellow party members stormed the Roumieh prison in the Christian heartland northeast of Beirut to set him free.

Iraq said to have told France it is ready to discuss Kuwait

French officials deny knowledge of letter

PARIS (Agencies) — French Television said Friday Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had told French President Francois Mitterrand he was ready to discuss Kuwait, but French government officials said they could not confirm the report.

The La Cinq network said Saddam sent a letter to Mitterrand ahead of the French leader's scheduled talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Paris Sunday and Monday.

But a Mitterrand aide told Reuters he could "find no trace of a letter" from the Iraqi leader.

Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Razzak Al Hashimi said he had no comment on the report or the French government reaction.

"The Iraqi president said he hoped Francois Mitterrand and Mikhail Gorbachev will spare no effort to find a solution to all the problems of the region, in particular the Palestinian problem," the television report said. "He added that he is open to all ideas, to all comments by Mitterrand and Gorbachev on the situation in the region, including the problem of Kuwait."

It quoted Saddam as saying: "You will find Iraq ready henceforth to respond positively to the international community to find a

just and peaceful solution."

It said Saddam had reiterated his "initiative of Aug. 12," which has been rejected by the international community. It calls for a global solution to all major Middle East problems but fails to promise an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait beforehand.

Saddam said France's position on the crisis was more constructive than that of the United States, according to La Cinq. The television said the Gulf crisis and the future of the Middle East would be major topics in talks with Gorbachev.

There has been speculation in Paris that their meeting may coincide with the return of all 327 French nationals held by Iraq for nearly three months. The French government denies any link between the two events.

The timing of the French national's departure is in the hands of Iraqi authorities, who unilaterally announced the release on Tuesday and are providing an Iraqi Airways plane to take them home.

Asked if Paris and Moscow were preparing a new initiative on the Gulf, presidential spokesman Hubert Vedrine said: "You can't talk of a new initiative because there has been no com-

mon Franco-Soviet initiative in the Gulf crisis."

"All the positions of France are official and known," he told reporters at a briefing on Friday, adding that he could not predict in advance what Mitterrand and Gorbachev would say.

Vedrine said Mitterrand would also discuss the Gulf with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher over lunch in Rome on Saturday, ahead of a European Community summit.

France and Britain have sent ships to the Gulf to enforce the United Nations trade embargo against Iraq and troops to Saudi Arabia to help the United States and its Arab allies.

Mitterrand's language towards Iraq has been firm but less confrontational than that of Thatcher or U.S. President George Bush and more in tune with Gorbachev's avowed desire for a peaceful solution.

The Elysee Thursday denied a report in the International Herald Tribune that Mitterrand expected war in the Gulf before the U.S. mid-term election Nov. 6.

PLO role

In Amman a Palestinian official said Friday the Palestine Li-

Primakov convinced of peace prospects

CAIRO (Agencies) — Soviet peace envoy Yevgeny Primakov said after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Friday he believed a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis was possible.

"I am convinced that the Gulf crisis could be solved without recourse to military force," he told reporters after 75 minutes of talks with Mubarak.

His comments came as world oil markets rose on fear of fighting in the Gulf as Cairo and Washington said they would send more troops and heavy armour to the oil-rich region to bolster the anti-Iraqi multinational alliance.

Primakov, on his second Gulf peace mission in a month, said he would head for Baghdad Sunday for more talks with Iraqi leaders on the crisis.

The envoy, an Arab specialist and a member of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's presidential council, said his talks with Mubarak showed that Egypt and the Soviet Union saw eye-to-eye on the Gulf crisis.

"President Mubarak is keen that justice should prevail and is keen to avoid the military solution," Primakov said through a Russian interpreter.

(Continued on page 5)

Admiral sees 6-month war, 40,000 U.S. casualties

LONDON (Agencies) — A U.S. admiral Friday predicted the United States would launch by mid-February a successful war against Saddam Hussein that would last at least six months and claim up to 40,000 U.S. casualties.

"It will be at least a six-month war," U.S. Admiral Gene Laroque said in a British Broadcasting Corporation radio interview from Washington.

The United States will be ready to strike between mid-November and early December, said Laroque, a former U.S. military strategist and director of the Centre for Defence Information.

The U.S. government's decision to send an additional 100,000 American troops to Saudi Arabia increased the chances of war, he said.

The U.S. reinforcement, announced Thursday, "clearly indicates that we are no longer in Saudi Arabia solely to defend the Saudis from an attack by Iraq and puts us in the direction of, and providing the capability of a force for the war against Iraq."

"We know so very little about the Middle East and we somehow thought it would be a very simple

"We must avoid a military strike or resorting to military force," he added.

Moscow, Primakov said, was convinced that Iraq should not benefit from its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. "The situation must return to what it was prior to Aug. 2," he said.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid said after talks with Primakov earlier Friday that Egypt agreed with Moscow that all possibilities should be exhausted before considering the military option.

"If we want to avoid war let us try to explore all avenues," Abdul Meguid said.

Asked what the Soviet position was on the call for an international conference to settle all the Middle East problems including the Arab-Israeli conflict, Primakov said: "We call for an international conference to settle all problems but that must not be done in direct linkage."

Primakov who met Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad three weeks ago, also visited Syria, the United States, Italy,

(Continued on page 5)

Israel says troops, civilians can shoot Palestinians

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The Israeli occupation authority told soldiers and civilians Friday that they can shoot at Palestinian protesters and rejected a fresh Security Council resolution condemning Israel for not complying with an earlier resolution.

The advice was described as a reminder after an upsurge in Arab-Jewish violence.

Israeli newspapers said Defence Minister Moshe Arens recently ordered troops combatting the 34-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories to shoot at Arabs throwing or even threatening to throw large stones.

"There is no change in regulations or laws," an army spokeswoman said. "This is just to emphasise that when there is a real and immediate threat to one's life, he can shoot at a stone-thrower."

"Given the recent attacks by Arabs on Jews, we want soldiers to know that when they are in danger, they do not have to think about lawyers or whether shooting is legal. They can just defend themselves," the spokeswoman said.

She said civilians could open fire from cars at Arab stone-throwers.

An Israeli inquiry into the Oct. 8 massacre of Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem Friday ac-

caused some policemen of firing indiscriminately but said the use of force to disperse Arab protesters was justified.

The government-appointed inquiry blamed Palestinians for the violence but criticised police chiefs for failing to avert it.

The report's conclusions seemed unlikely to silence international condemnation of Israel which has refused to receive a United Nations investigation into the killings.

Police say they killed 18 Palestinians and wounded 150 among thousands who threw stones at Israelis and allegedly attacked two policemen in a police post in the Haram Al Sharif complex.

(Continued on page 5)

Aziz: U.S., Britain blocking Arab effort

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Friday that hurried U.S. and British reaction to conciliatory remarks attributed to a Saudi minister showed they opposed any attempt to find an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz told the Iraqi News Agency (INA). "The statements confirm that the Washington and London governments... deliberately and immediately suppress any attempt to open a dialogue among Arab states to settle their regional questions in an Arab context."

The U.S. and British governments urgently sought assurances from Saudi Arabia that its stand on the Gulf crisis remained unchanged following remarks attributed to Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz Sunday.

His remarks were interpreted as suggesting there could be Kuwaiti territorial concessions to Iraq which invaded the emirate Aug. 2.

King Fahd and Prince Sultan later stressed that the kingdom's position had not changed — it demanded an immediate and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

"Washington and London want complete political control in the same fashion they gained control through their military buildup which practically means the occupation of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf," Aziz told INA.

"Their basic goal is not as they claim the safeguarding of international law and order... but direct military control of the oilfields."

Aziz met Friday with the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad, as well as the French and Chinese charges d'affaires.

During those meetings, he reportedly accused the United States of trying to manipulate U.N. Security Council activity.

The United States and Britain are seeking passage of a new U.N. resolution that would demand an Iraqi halt to alleged attacks on Kuwaitis, and would make Baghdad liable for war reparations.

Kuwait's prime minister has said he would not mind if a military strike destroyed his country as long as it is liberated, a Saudi newspaper reported Friday.

Meanwhile, the toppled Kuwaiti government reported that 4,200 Kuwaitis were killed during the invasion by Iraq, considerably higher than initial reports of several hundred deaths.

The government-run Kuwait News Agency said 12,000 soldiers were taken prisoner, out of a total pre-invasion Kuwaiti military force of about 20,000.

The report was attributed to the Kuwait embassy in Damascus. "What is left of Kuwait after what Saddam's soldiers did to

Jordan almost out of foreign reserves — Marto

WASHINGTON (R) — Jordan has almost run out of foreign exchange because of the Gulf crisis and is in desperate need to help to stave off economic collapse, the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), said Friday.

Michel Marto told journalists at a press breakfast that Jordan had not yet received a single dollar of the hundreds of millions pledged in aid by the West to help it weather the crisis.

"We are very low on our foreign exchange. At the Central Bank, we have negative deposits on foreign reserves net position," he said.

Jordan has been hit harder by the crisis than any other country with the exceptions of Kuwait and Iraq. Its economy was closely entwined with that of Iraq before the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait that led to U.N. sanctions against trade with the two countries.

"We really need money to keep importing food necessities and raw materials for industry. We do not want to see our economy collapse," said Marto.

Another Jordanian official in

Washington said the Kingdom's gross domestic product could fall by 30 per cent this year and 50 per cent in 1991. Unemployment was estimated to rise from 20 per cent of the workforce before the crisis to 35-40 per cent next year.

"Our economy is in a shambles right now. Without immediate help, we are facing a catastrophe in 1991," said the official.

The United States was initially annoyed with Jordan when the Gulf crisis erupted for what it saw as the Kingdom's hesitation in backing United Nations sanctions and its effort to work out an Arab solution to the conflict.

But Marto said feelings in Washington towards Jordan were much warmer now. He has been here since Sunday, trying to persuade U.S. Treasury and State department officials of the gravity of his country's situation.

The U.S. congress this week earmarked \$35 million for Jordan, and Germany and Japan are also promising aid. But Marto said delays in handling the money over were hurting the Kingdom.

Four-fifths of Jordan's foreign currency earnings used to come from expatriate workers in the Gulf. But half of the 300,000 Jordanians in Kuwait have returned home while the rest are no longer earning convertible currency or are unable to send back remittances.

Marto said coping with the flood of refugees that surged into Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait had cost the government some \$55 million. Foreign governments had promised to help but only 10 per cent of the money had arrived.

Most crucially, Saudi Arabia had stopped importing Jordanian fruit and vegetables and stopped selling it oil. Jordan's bumper harvest is going to waste and Marto said he feared farmers would not be able to plant for next year.

Aid from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Abu Dhabi dried up on August 2, costing Jordan an anticipated \$200 million for the balance of 1990 and \$300 million next year unless it is restored.

Jordanian tourism centred on port of Aqaba had also slumped while it was difficult to get ships to export goods.

Beirut: Force could be used to achieve peace

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon's Defence Minister Albert Mansour said Friday the government would use force as a final resort to achieve peace after 15 years of civil war.

Mansour told Reuters in an interview that all armed groups have approved a plan to unite the capital, long divided into warring sectors, and other areas under a single army.

Militia offices and militia-run sectors would be closed under the plan, heralding the end of political gunmen, as President Elias Hrawi's government extends authority in the country torn by sectarian strife.

His comments came a few hours after the leader of Lebanon's largest militia said the 15-year war that killed 150,000 people has ended, at least temporarily.

"The state of enmity between us and the others is over," Samir Geagea, chief of the 10,000-strong Lebanese Forces (LF), told Reuters Thursday.

Hrawi's government has pledged to disarm and dissolve Lebanon's nine main militias, totalling about 40,000 armed men.

Both Mansour and Geagea cited as a key to ending the crisis an already-negotiated peace pact aimed at ending Lebanon's sectarian power struggle by giving Muslims greater say in the previously Christian-dominated political system.

The Taif accord calls for a united army, formation of a national unity government grouping all warring militias, eventual redeployment of Syria's 40,000 troops in Lebanon and the disbanding of all militias within six months.

(Continued on page 5)

Oil prices ride on roller-coaster

LONDON (Agencies) — Oil prices jumped, then dipped in Europe Friday as the market reacted to tough or dovish statements on the Gulf crisis.

Share prices fell in major centres ahead of another weekend of uncertainty over developments in the Middle East.

The dollar firmed slightly, but dealers said its rise would be limited because of continued anxiety over the U.S. economy.

Oil prices moved up about \$1 per barrel on the New York futures market Friday morning, as traders kept betting on war in the Gulf.

"It's definitely just the increased war fear and seeing the war premium getting put back in the market," said Amy-Louise Hittle, a senior oil analyst with Shearson Lehman Brothers Inc. brokerage firm.

Light sweet crude oil, the key grade, was up 95 cents to \$35.20 per barrel for December delivery contracts on the New York mercantile exchange late Friday morning. Contracts for delivery in later months were all trading higher as crude moved up sharply for a third straight trading session.

Oil regained all of the ground it lost in Monday's record tumble of \$5.41 per barrel. But trading was erratic, and speculators were left uncertain on oil's future direction.

Oil futures prices surged about \$2 in London early Friday, continuing Thursday's upward trend after U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said U.S. forces in the Gulf could be boosted.

دكتور محمد المصطفى

Iraqi blasting of Kuwait wells would cause ecological disaster

DUBAI (R) — Iraq would cause an ecological disaster if it blew up hundreds of Kuwait oil wells during a war in the Gulf, specialists said Friday.

"Iraq has experts to start a fire at Kuwaiti oil wells which might take months to put out," a Gulf-based oil industry executive said. Dense clouds of black smoke from burning sulphur-laden Kuwaiti crude could billow across the region, posing a threat to the environment and people and driving volatile oil prices to record levels.

White most of the region was desert, Saudi Arabia had launched a major agricultural drive, becoming the world's sixth largest exporter of cereals and moving into specialised dairy farming and fruit production. The specialists said its carefully nurtured arable land could be hit by pollution.

The Financial Times newspaper quoted a Lebanese-born engineer who fled Kuwait as saying Iraqi forces had attached explosives to 300 of Kuwait's 1,000 oil wells as a precaution against a possible attack by U.S.-

dominated forces in the Gulf. "I do not want to guess where (crude oil) prices might jump if traders hear news of burning fields," a Western oil company executive in the Gulf said.

Crude oil prices soared to more than \$41 per barrel on Oct. 10 and Gulf war fears fell to below \$30 per barrel early this week.

Renewed market jitters Friday pushed the price back up to more than \$35.

Oil prices were below \$20 per barrel before Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait which caused the loss of over four million barrels per day (bpd) of Kuwait and Iraqi crude.

Texas oil firefighter Paul "Red" Adair's company said earlier this month it had held discussions with U.S. government officials and members of Kuwait's toppled ruling family.

But the spokesman for the Houston-based Red Adair Company said there had been no agreement to send equipment to the Gulf in case the oil wells were hit.

Oil industry sources in the Gulf said Iraqi experts might strip the wells of safety shutdown valves and set off simultaneous explosions which might start hundreds of fires.

"They are talking about 300 wells. If they all start burning at the same time, you don't have 300 Red Adairs to put them out," the oil industry executive said.

Although they might take months to put out, the fires would not cause significant damage to underground crude reservoirs. But it could take months to bring them back on stream because of repairs to pumps, pipes and other equipment.

"The (Kuwait) fields are so big, nothing much will happen to reservoirs but surface equipment will be lost," he added.

Kuwait's proven oil reserves are estimated around 95 billion barrels or even nine per cent of the world's total. Kuwait's oil output was around 1.8 million bpd in July.

Its main fields are between Kuwait City and the Saudi border.

Nakasone to visit Baghdad

TOKYO (AP) — Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone announced Friday that he would visit Iraq next week for talks with Saddam Hussein to seek a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis and secure the release of foreign nationals.

"I thought about whether I should go or not very carefully, but I felt a sort of destiny about going there," Nakasone told a news conference.

"Judging from the recent developments of the Gulf situation, I don't think Japan should be watching from the sidelines any longer."

Nakasone, who was invited to Baghdad by a private Iraqi organisation, is expected to begin his trip next Thursday or Friday, accompanied by a delegation of lawmakers from the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu welcomed Nakasone's decision. "We have been opening a way for political discussions with Iraq. I think it is a good thing," he said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe stressed the government was not directly involved in the trip. He said there was no indication that Kaifu would ask Nakasone to carry a letter to Saddam.

One government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, expressed concern that Western nations would be critical if Nakasone's trip leads to the release of only Japanese nationals being held hostage in Iraq.

"We have to keep our fingers crossed," he said. "We have to be aware that Saddam Hussein is eager to break the unity of the Western countries."

In 1973, Nakasone travelled to the Middle East as head of the powerful Ministry of International Trade and Industry to boost ties with Arab states. The Middle East war broke out just months later and the Arab World decided to restrict oil exports to pro-Israel governments.

On Nov. 22 of that year, the Japanese cabinet adopted policies calling for Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories occupied since the 1967 war and pledged to review its close relations with Israel. The Arab states decided not to make additional reductions in oil exports to Japan.

But officials stress Japan will not act unilaterally this time. "We will... not make a deal just by ourselves," said Kazuo Aichi, head of the international bureau of the governing party.

Nakasone said he will try to help win the release of all foreigners held by Iraq. Since Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, Baghdad has intermittently released Japanese trapped in the two countries, but 139 still remain stranded.

Private Iraqi organisations Thursday invited Nakasone to travel to Baghdad to help improve bilateral relations, which have deteriorated since the invasion of Kuwait.

The Diet, or parliament, is debating a government proposal to send members of Japan's Self-Defence Forces to the Gulf to assist the multinational forces in non-combat roles by providing medical, communications and transportation support. Opponents have cited provisions of Japan's post-World War II constitution barring the military from being deployed overseas.

Nakasone has been sidelined from national politics since he was linked to a major bribery scandal in 1988 and 1989. His term as prime minister ended in November 1987 before the allegations surfaced.

Baker weighs trip to Gulf

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State James Baker is contemplating another trip to the Gulf as the United States weighs sending an additional 100,000 troops to the region.

Baker's trip, which could take place next week, is aimed at shoring up the anti-Iraq coalition.

"The trip is being contemplated," a U.S. official told Reuters, although the State Department has refused to publicly confirm plans for the trip.

Unconfirmed news reports Thursday said Baker's mission was to discuss with Saudi officials setting a date for an attack on Iraq, which invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler could not be reached for comment. Another official, who asked not to be identified, said he was unaware of any such major change in U.S. strategy.

The Bush administration, while not ruling out the military option

has insisted that United Nations sanctions against Iraq were working and might force Iraq to leave Kuwait.

At the same time, the United States is weighing sending an additional 100,000 troops to the Gulf.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, in a television interview Thursday, expressed fears that Iraq might use its million-strong army as the sanctions begin to bite.

The focus in recent days has shifted to Israel after over 20 Palestinians were killed during protests earlier this month.

U.S. officials have been concerned at recent "peace feelers" from Baghdad and the release of Westerners, which they see as an effort by Iraq to split the anti-Iraq coalition.

In discussing the possibility of an additional buildup, a Pentagon spokesman said that no upper limit had been placed on the U.S. troop strength around the Ara-

bian Peninsula, now standing at more than 210,000, and refused to rule out suggestions it could grow by another 200,000.

Iraq "might lash out at Israel," might lash out at the Saudi oil fields, for example, so I think we have to be prepared for that possibility," Cheney said.

The United States has been signalling its allies that it wants to give the trade embargo more time to work and is unlikely to take military action for several months even though more troops may go to the Gulf, officials and diplomats say.

These sources portrayed the Bush administration as both encouraged by the effectiveness of the blockade against Iraq and wary of the potential costs of a war.

Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the United States said Thursday that he was not optimistic about peace in the Gulf.

Prince Bandar Ben Sultan, speaking to reporters before a meeting with Undersecretary of State Robert Kimmitt, said: "We are doing our best to solve this peacefully... but I don't know anything today that Saddam Hussein said to us or to anybody else that makes us optimistic."

He also said he was not worried about talk of increased U.S. troop deployments in the region, adding: "Remember, these decisions are not unilateral. They are usually the end product of a lot of consultations."

The troop buildup "means just that we will not take any chances," he added two hours later when he emerged from his meetings at the State Department.

In addition to his meeting with Kimmitt, who has played a major role in U.S. Gulf policy, Bandar was briefed by the department's chief counter-terrorism expert, Assistant Secretary of State Morris Busby.

U.S. to 'write down' Egypt's \$7.1 billion debt

WASHINGTON (R) — Congressional negotiators Friday changed an administration proposal to write off Egypt's \$7.1 billion military sales debt to the United States to avoid its defeat in the House of Representatives.

The new provision was drafted at the end of all-night negotiations on a \$15.5 billion foreign aid bill for 1991 that also cuts El Salvador's military aid by half.

The bill now has to go to the House and Senate for final approval before being sent to President George Bush for his signature.

The Senate version of the foreign aid bill had adopted the administration's request to cancel outright Egypt's military sales debt, incurred between 1979 and 1984, but the House bill contained no such provision.

Under a complex arrangement that replaces the direct writeoff, Egypt would receive a six-month debt moratorium up to March 31 and the United States would "write down" the value of the debt.

The United States would have to seek a conference of Egypt's economic and military aid creditors to see if they would be willing to ease its debts.

If they were willing to do so the United States would also reduce Egypt's debt. If not, then Washington could unilaterally forgive the money owed by Egypt after certifying to Congress that it was in the U.S. national security interest to do so.

Saudi prince overstays his welcome at Harvard

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts (AP) — Four months after a Saudi prince set up camp near Harvard Square — complete with a satellite dish and an entourage of 65 at a posh hotel — residents say the royals are wearing out their welcome.

In the latest of several incidents, North Cambridge residents have complained that security forces with the prince's entourage ejected local children from a park during royal family visits.

They also claim the Saudis have driven stretch limousines across newly seeded athletic fields.

Prince Turki Ben Abdul Aziz Al Saud, the brother of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and the country's former deputy defence minister, arrived at Cambridge's Charles Square Hotel in August for a leisurely visit to Harvard University.

But the prince has stayed on in what has been described as an official mission to monitor U.S. response to the crisis in the Middle East.

Cambridge City Councilor Edward Cyr said Wednesday he will ask the council to issue a formal reminder to the prince's group that "nobody will be allowed to essentially usurp a public facility for their exclusive use."

Mayor Alice K. Wolf said she has fielded complaints from resi-

dents that the prince's limousines have made it even harder to park in an already congested part of the city.

Earlier this month, Harvard University police cut back participation in the 24-hour guard protecting the prince amid reports it was detracting from campus security.

Even Prince Turki's attempts at charity have generated sour publicity.

University officials announced last weekend that the prince had endowed a Harvard Medical School professorship in immunology. The prince's father-in-law has been treated in Boston by a Harvard-affiliated physician following a kidney transplant.

But the student-run Harvard Crimson newspaper said in an editorial that it appeared university President Derek C. Bok was "selling his soul to the devil for a million-dollar professorship."

The Crimson referred to allegations about 10 years ago involving 10 female servants of the prince who claimed they were being held as slaves.

The Crimson also reported a 1989 rescue by London police of two German nurses hired to care for the prince's three children who dropped notes from a sixth-story hotel saying they were being held hostage.

U.N. panel adopts resolution on Sahara

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. General Assembly's Decolonisation Committee has welcomed a recent report by the secretary-general proposing the establishment of a U.N. force to monitor a ceasefire and elections in Western Sahara.

It was the second consecutive year that the committee adopted by consensus a resolution dealing with efforts to resolve the conflict between Morocco and the Polisario Front.

Morocco took over the disputed territory when Spain withdrew in 1976 and the Polisario Front has proclaimed its own independent Sahrawi republic.

The two sides agreed in principle in August 1988 to proposals by the U.N. secretary-general and the chairman of the Organisation of African Unity for a ceasefire and referendum to choose between independence or merger with Morocco.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, in a June report that was later endorsed by the Security Council, outlined plans for a U.N. monitoring operation in-

volving troops, police and civilians.

Thursday's resolution, which now goes to the assembly plenary for endorsement, appeals to Morocco and Polisario to display the cooperation and political goodwill necessary for a speedy settlement of the question of Western Sahara.

But many details are still being worked out, including the size and cost of the force and the extent of a Moroccan troop pull-back during the run-up to the referendum.

Moroccan Ambassador Aziz Hachi said his country had never rejected constructive and responsible dialogue but sought a just and lasting solution within the U.N. framework. He urged the adoption of the resolution without a vote.

Mohammed Sidati, the foreign affairs chief of the Sahrawi republic, said in a statement later that the committee's action reflected the wish of the international community to see "the right of our people to self-determination and independence" finally realised.

Sharon vows Soviets will be buffer against Palestinians

ASHKELON (R) — Hardline housing minister Ariel Sharon said Thursday Israel would settle Soviet Jews along its pre-1967 border to form a buffer between Israeli and West Bank Palestinians.

"One million Jews are on their way," Sharon told an audience of fund raisers. He said they would arrive by the end of 1992, and the potential number of would-be Soviet Jewish immigrants could be 2.5 million. Israel's current population is 4.6 million.

Sharon vowed to forge ahead with building houses for Soviet immigrants by bringing in foreign construction workers to replace Arab labourers confined since Wednesday to the occupied territories as part of a crackdown.

Sharon told members of the Jewish Agency for Israel, which orchestrates and finances the Soviet exodus, the newcomers would prevent the influence of the 34-month-old Palestinian uprising spreading to Israel's 700,000 Arabs.

"There is a severe influence by Arabs in Samaria, Judea (the West Bank) and Gaza on our Israeli Arabs who are getting more and more involved in terror

and violence," Sharon told his largely American audience.

"We are going to solve the problem by settling Jews, thousands of Jews in this area," he said. The newcomers would form a buffer along the "green line," the border before Israel occupied the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Arab Jerusalem in the 1967 war.

Sharon said Israel would never give up the occupied territories because it needed "strategic depth." He said it would not settle Soviet Jews there for fear of endangering the exodus. The Soviet Union was under pressure from Arab countries to halt the outflow, he said.

But Sharon, an avowed hawk and former defence minister, said this did not include Arab Jerusalem.

"We are going for a massive construction plan in the heart of Jerusalem, at least 5,000 (homes) a year for the next eight years, most of it in east Jerusalem," he told reporters.

More than 10 per cent of Soviet immigrants, expected to reach 180,000 by the end of 1990, are settling in Jerusalem, largely in areas "annexed" since 1967.

Husseini ignites strong feelings on both sides

By Eileen Alt Powell
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

When the Israeli jailed Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini in 1987, he spent much of his 18 months behind bars teaching himself Hebrew.

He later used his new language to launch a campaign urging Israelis to back his people's drive for statehood.

On Thursday, fresh from another spell in jail, the son of the Palestinians' most famous war hero renewed his appeal, this time in English and in his native Arabic.

"We are fighting to free our people, not to enslave any other people," he said at a crowded news conference in Arab Jerusalem.

"We are fighting to build our state, not to destroy any other state. We are fighting for the security of our grandchildren and not to endanger the security of any other grandchildren."

Husseini was arrested Oct. 8 on suspicion of fomenting protests in Jerusalem in which Jews were stoned and the gunfire of Israeli forces killed over 20 Palestinians. He walked free 17 days later into a new "circle of blood," as he put it — a wave of Arab revenge attacks on Jews and Jewish counterattacks.

He promptly condemned the bloodshed. "There is no difference for me between the crying of a Palestinian woman who lost her son or the crying of an Israeli woman who lost her son," Husseini said.

An outspoken voice for coexistence, Husseini is recognised by both Palestinians and Israelis as the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) top supporter in Jerusalem, and the political leader of the 34-month uprising against Israeli occupation.

Balding, asthmatic and not given to rousing oratory, the 50-year-old Husseini nonetheless seldom fails to arouse strong emotions in both camps.

When his name came up during a televised debate Wednesday night, all four Israeli lawmakers on the panel began talking heatedly at once.

Uzi Baram of the opposition Labour Party argued that Husseini represented Palestinian moderation and that if Israel didn't talk to him, it might end up having to talk to Hamas, the Muslim fundamentalist movement.

But Uzi Landau of the ruling right-wing Likud bloc wouldn't hear of it. "The difference between Faisal Husseini and Hamas is exactly the same as the difference between Saddam Hussein and the Ayatollah Khomeini," he said.

Arab opinion is divided, too. His friend and colleague Sari Nusseibeh says Husseini is a natural leader "who feels the responsibility to lead."

A recent Islamic fundamentalist tract, however, attacks Husseini for conducting armchair politics instead of fighting in the streets.

Such Arab resentment stems partly from Husseini's high-profile contacts with Israelis, notably Yael Dayan, daughter of the late Moshe Dayan. They made a joint lecture tour of the United States this year.

Husseini was a child of revolution. He was born in Baghdad, where his father, Abdul Khader Husseini, was hiding from the British army after participating in the 1936-39 Arab



Faisal Husseini

uprising in British-controlled Palestine. He was seven when his father died leading an assault on Israeli troops in the 1948 battle for Jerusalem.

Husseini thinks his much-revered father would identify with his activities today and understand the shift from the battlefield to the international political arena.

"I believe he was fighting starting from his love for his people, for his land, not starting from hating others," Husseini said in an interview Thursday.

Husseini attended universities in Baghdad, Cairo and Beirut, but never graduated. Later he joined the Palestine Liberation Army, a military arm of the PLO scattered in the Arab World.

The Israelis first arrested him in 1967 after they captured Arab Jerusalem. Parts of a gun were found in his house, and he spent the next year in jail.

In 1987 he was detained without charge for two periods adding up to 18 months. On Wednesday, he was freed on personal bail, and police say inquiries are continuing.

Husseini denies fomenting the violence in Harem Al Sharif. He blames Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government for creating "a sense of hopelessness" among Palestinians by refusing to negotiate peace and by settling Jews on the occupied territories.

He said Israel's refusal to accept a U.N. probe of the Oct. 8 killings could spur further violence.

"If there is no hope, if Israel decides to be outside international legitimacy... they are ensuring we will live in a jungle," Husseini said.

Israel says such an investigation would challenge its self-proclaimed sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem.

Asked on Thursday whether he thought his 18-year-old son and 16-year-old daughter would see an independent Palestine in their lifetime, he replied: "I believe that I will see it."

He said Israel's refusal to accept a U.N. probe of the Oct. 8 killings could spur further violence.

"If there is no hope, if Israel decides to be outside international legitimacy... they are ensuring we will live in a jungle," Husseini said.

Israel says such an investigation would challenge its self-proclaimed sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem.

Asked on Thursday whether he thought his 18-year-old son and 16-year-old daughter would see an independent Palestine in their lifetime, he replied: "I believe that I will see it."

He said Israel's refusal to accept a U.N. probe of the Oct. 8 killings could spur further violence.

"If there is no hope, if Israel decides to be outside international legitimacy... they are ensuring we will live in a jungle," Husseini said.

Israel says such an investigation would challenge its self-proclaimed sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem.

Asked on Thursday whether he thought his 18-year-old son and 16-year-old daughter would see an independent Palestine in their lifetime, he replied: "I believe that I will see it."

He said Israel's refusal to accept a U.N. probe of the Oct. 8 killings could spur further violence.

"If there is no hope, if Israel decides to be outside international legitimacy... they are ensuring we will live in a jungle," Husseini said.

Israel says such an investigation would challenge its self-proclaimed sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem.

Asked on Thursday whether he thought his 18-year-old son and 16-year-old daughter would see an independent Palestine in their lifetime, he replied: "I believe that I will see it."

He said Israel's refusal to accept a U.N. probe of the Oct. 8 killings could spur further violence.

"If there is no hope, if Israel decides to be outside international legitimacy... they are ensuring we will live in a jungle," Husseini said.

Israel says such an investigation would challenge its self-proclaimed sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem.

Asked on Thursday whether he thought his 18-year-old son and 16-year-old daughter would see an independent Palestine in their lifetime, he replied: "I believe that I will see it."

He said Israel's refusal to accept a U.N. probe of the Oct. 8 killings could spur further violence.

"If there is no hope, if Israel decides to be outside international legitimacy... they are ensuring we will live in a jungle," Husseini said.

Israel says such an investigation would challenge its self-proclaimed sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem.

Asked on Thursday whether he thought his 18-year-old son and 16-year-old daughter would see an independent Palestine in their lifetime, he replied: "I believe that I will see it."

He said Israel's refusal to accept a U.N. probe of the Oct. 8 killings could spur further violence.

"If there is no hope, if Israel decides to be outside international legitimacy... they are ensuring we will live in a jungle," Husseini said.

Israel says such an investigation would challenge its self-proclaimed sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem.

Asked on Thursday whether he thought his 18-year-old son and 16-year-old daughter would see an independent Palestine in their lifetime, he replied: "I believe that I will see it."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
15:50 Educational programme
16:00 News Summary
16:10 Local programme
16:20 Programme review
16:30 News in Arabic
16:35 Arabic series
16:40 Programme review
16:50 Local programme
17:00 News in Arabic
17:10 Arabic play

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Fruits de la passion
18:10 News in French
18:15 Documentary
18:20 News in Arabic
18:30 Good Morning Miss Bliss
18:40 Entertainment
18:50 Feature film "Under Fire"
19:00 News in English
19:10 Continuation of the film

PRAYER TIMES

06:26 Fajr
07:43 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:19 Dhuhr
14:27 'Asr
16:56 Maghrib
18:15 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Soie Church Tel. 661757

Terramata Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 771331

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Jordan subjected to blockade, collective punishment — Abu Hassan

By Ziad Al Shilleh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Chairman of the Jordanian Businessmen Association Mamdouh Abu Hassan Friday said that Jordan was being subjected to a genuine blockade and collective punishment in view of its pan-Arab stand.

In an interview with the dailies Al Rai and the Jordan Times, Abu Hassan said the undeclared economic blockade against Jordan and the illegal measures practised by the United States navy were aimed at pressuring Jordan into changing its pan-Arab stand on the Gulf crisis.

Abu Hassan refuted the ground used by the U.S. navy to ban ships carrying goods to Jordan, according to Abu Hassan, saying that the goods are shipped to "blacklisted" Jordanian traders and importers.

He expressed regret that port authorities in a neighbouring Arab country had ordered the discharge of goods worth hundreds of millions of dinars, bound to Jordan, in their ports and banned national shipping lines from carrying these goods to Aqaba Port.

"Jordan's position vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis, at this particular time, is the reason for the unjust campaign launched against Jordan by Western countries and some Arab countries," he said.

Abu Hassan said that the continuing blockade on Jordan, despite its observance of the United Nations Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions against Iraq, subjects Jordan to great economic losses which could reach thousands of billions of dollars, in the form of loss of remittance from Jordanians working abroad, return of hun-

dreds of thousands of Jordanian working in Kuwait, increased unemployment as well as loss of export markets.

Abu Hassan pointed out that Jordan has not received any amount of the assistance pledged by the Western countries, Japan and the United Nations Security Council to compensate it for the loss incurred as a result of its compliance with the economic sanctions resolutions.

If the economic blockade is to persist, then the infrastructure of the industrial progress which Jordan has achieved so far will be undermined," Abu Hassan said.

One of the first victims of the present situation will be the democracy, Abu Hassan said. He added that it is difficult for any country to thrive and to live in a democratic atmosphere if it is subjected to an economic blockade.

Peace mission to Iraq deplores lack of baby food, describes mood as 'hopeful'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Sixteen American peace activists passed through Amman Friday morning on their way home after a week-long trip to Baghdad.

Although the group was not accompanied by any of the Americans being held by Iraq, two members of the peace mission — a Catholic bishop, and an Egyptian-American businessman — stayed behind in Baghdad to continue to pursue the release of sick and elderly Americans. The group's leader, Douglas Hostetter, interviewed by the Jordan Times before returning to New York, predicted some of these Americans may be released as early as Sunday or Monday.

The peace delegation, consisting of Protestant and Catholic clergy, Vietnam veterans, and peace advocates, met with Iraqi officials, hospital workers, university students and farmers during their stay. They delivered nearly 500

kilogrammes of medical supplies to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society. Last week, the group delivered a smaller amount of medical supplies to evacuees being housed in Jordan.

The group also met with some of the Americans detained in Iraq. Clergy members on the mission held services for the Americans.

The mission was organised by the Fellowship for Reconciliation, a 75-year-old international pacifist organisation.

Hostetter said Iraq was experiencing shortages of baby food and called it "morally reprehensible to keep food and medical care from Iraqi civilians." He said his group would try to raise money in the U.S. to bring food and medicine to infants and nursing mothers in Iraq on a future mission.

Hostetter described Baghdad as swarming with Western peace missions: Swedish, Italian, Iraqi-American. He said his organisation would continue sending peace missions to Iraq — at least once per month

— to serve as "peace shields" against military action by the troops gathered in the Gulf.

While the group was not able to arrange for the immediate release of any Americans (14 were released to an Iraqi-American friendship society earlier this week), Bishop Michael Kinney of Juneau, Alaska, and Tarek Mohamed Al Henaidy, a Muslim businessman from Massachusetts, remained behind to pursue this goal.

Hostetter said the mood in Iraq was "one of hope and anticipation for peace." He said people there felt that diplomatic efforts were gaining ground, "if not with government leaders, at least through unofficial negotiators, such as former British Prime Minister Edward Heath, and among ordinary citizens throughout the world."

But he also said Iraqis indicated a willingness to "fight to the end" if their country was attacked by the multi-national force massed in the Gulf and on the Saudi border.



Over 100 people Thursday march to the United Nations office in Amman to protest the presence of foreign forces and mass destruction weapons in the Gulf (Photo: Youssef Al Afan)

Group protests presence of mass destruction weapons in the Gulf

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution Thursday organised a march in Amman to protest against the presence in the Gulf region of foreign naval forces carrying mass destruction weapons and threatening Arab countries and the world's environment.

More than 100 marchers carrying posters walked to the United Nations office here and handed U.N. Resident Representative Ali Adiga an urgent appeal for the U.N. secretary general to help avert war in the Gulf.

The marchers, headed by former prime minister and society President Ahmad Obaidat, grouped former ministers, businessmen, government officials and heads of various voluntary and professional organisations in the Kingdom.

Following is the text of the petition to Adiga to forward to the U.N. secretary general:

"The Middle East region is nowadays exposed to the possibility of the eruption of a war in which mass destruction weapons may be used as a result of an unprecedented deployment of navies, bombers and military forces equipped with mass destruction weapons inclusive of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. The environmental consequences of such a war will be devastating in the Gulf region which will definitely lead to a catastrophic destruction of human life, natural resources and environment in a manner unwitnessed by humanity before."

"What adds to the gravity of

the situation is the insistence of certain international parties and economical and petroleum interests to distort the facts and causes.

They depict the matter as jeopardising the possibilities of finding local peaceful solutions to the conflict, while evidence and facts confirm that the real motives behind this stubbornness are the serving of the objectives of such parties and interests alone with a total disregard to the consequences of the catastrophe that will befall the human beings and the environment, the future of generations, the lack of security and the increases in tension throughout the world.

"Should the evil forces be destined to achieve their purposes — God forbid —, the aftermath of the destruction resulting from a total military confrontation shall no doubt exceed human tragedies and economical losses to become a far-reaching environmental catastrophe encompassing the whole globe and affecting all, inclusive of the dangers of a nuclear fallout and biological and chemical pollution at a dimension vastly exceeding the aftermath of the Chernobyl catastrophe and the other environmental catastrophes still live in memory. It will lead to the deterioration of the environmental status, the possibility of the explosion of the oil and gas wells in the region. This will definitely lead to the shrinkage of the ozone layer, the warming of the earth surface and the fall of acid rains resulting from the emanation of huge quantities of gases the volume of which exceeds what the indus-

trialised countries have produced over many years.

"On this occasion, our serious call for the protection of mankind and the preservation of environment is completely in concert with the responsible calls, appeals and warnings issued by the United Nations Organisation directly and by all the relevant international symposiums and conferences such as the Hague Declaration on Environment, which confirmed that the right to live is the right pursuant to which all the other rights are granted and its guarantee is the most noble duty of officials in all countries all over the world."

"Being aware of the dangers that threaten the future of world children and human environment with its two components: Earth and Man, we appeal to you to strongly join your voices to ours and to the appeals of the supporters of environment and peace in the world in order to avert this sure danger with all means available and on all official and popular levels, and to urgently mobilise in the direction of peaceful solution and to make it the first and last option to defuse the explosion and to withdraw the troops of destruction from the region."

"The work for peace and the protection of environment and mankind in our region and in the whole world is a joint responsibility of those with have conscience and sane minds. So hand in hand we should jointly work for the achievement of our noble goals in order for the environment to prosper and for the future generation to live in security."

Masri describes U.N. resolution 673 as weak

AMMAN (J.T.) — Security Council resolution 673 passed in the wake of Israel's massacre of more than 20 Arabs in Jerusalem was a poor resolution in general, and failed to define a specific task for a U.N. enquiry commission that was supposed to visit the occupied Arab lands to investigate into the massacre, according to Taher Al Masri, chairman of the foreign affairs committee at the Lower House of Parliament.

"This resolution is weaker than the previous one which Israel had rejected and after which it declared its total refusal to allow such an inquiry commission to come to the occupied Arab lands," Masri said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

He said Israel was openly and flagrantly violating the U.N. principles and defying the world community and the international legitimacy at a time when the council was allowing naval forces to impose an embargo against Iraq for its takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2.

Masri, a former foreign minister, said that the double standard of the council was unacceptable and regrettable and caused the council to lose credibility, following the example of the United States in this respect.

Masri said that "the British ambassador at the United Nations was instrumental in issuing a weak resolution which rendered the council impotent in the face of Israel's defiance."

The deported mayor of Arab Jerusalem, Rawhi Al Khatib, called on the Security Council, to issue a resolution imposing sanctions on Israel for refusing to conform to the will of the international community.

"The Security Council has come under the influence and total hegemony of the United States and the Arab countries in general, and the Palestinians in particular, can expect nothing in their favour," Khatib said. He said that the Arab and Muslim nations have no alternative but to unify their stand and confront their common enemy.

Salah pursues efforts to obtain help for Jordan

NEW YORK (J.T.) — Jordan's Permanent Representative at the United Nations Abdullah Salah had a meeting Thursday evening with the current president of the U.N. Security Council to discuss the council's decisions about compensating Jordan which sustained severe damage to its economy as a result of its implementation of Security Council resolution 661.

Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Friday that Salah had discussed the amount of compensation to be forthcoming and the extent of damage to Jordan's economy as presented by a report submitted to the council members by Jean Ripert, a special envoy of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar who visited Jordan recently.

Jean Ripert met with Jordanian leaders and was briefed on the extent of damage to the Kingdom's economy brought about by the embargo against Iraq.

Salah's talks with the Security Council president and other

members were attended by Dr. Michael Marto, vice president of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ).

Ripert's report, distributed to various council members, calls for urgent assistance to Jordan to help it overcome the present economic hardship.

Ripert was told by the government in Amman that Jordan's implementation of Security Council resolutions had cost it heavy losses in revenues and trade in addition to an estimated \$8 billion in expatriates' remittances, lost savings and property. Furthermore, Jordan has offered services to 800,000 evacuees and is now facing an influx of returning expatriates estimated at 120,000, according to Jordanian officials.

Ripert's visit here was followed by a senior official from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), who came to further assess Jordan's losses and send the report to the United Nations.

Ministry tries to solve dilemma of Jordanian students in Egypt

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Higher Education has not been notified by the cultural attaché at Jordan's embassy in Cairo about a final decision concerning the acceptance of Jordanian students in Egyptian universities. Despite this, the ministry is still trying to ensure acceptances, according to Ministry of Higher Education Secretary-General Ahmad Al Bashairah.

The Ministry of Higher Education is entrusted with the task of arranging acceptances for at least 300 Jordanian students annually at Egyptian universities in accordance with a bilateral agreement. But this year only 120 Jordanians applied; their names have been sent to Cairo for approval by the concerned authorities there, according to ministry officials here. They said that at least 3,000 Jordanian students were currently enrolled at Egyptian universities.

Bashairah said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Friday that the Ministry of Higher Education was doing all it can to speed up the acceptance of the Jordanian students.

Bashairah's statement followed reports from Cairo that Jordanian

students were being barred from entering Egypt. The Egyptian embassy in Amman has been approached by the foreign ministry to facilitate procedures for the students; the cultural attaché at the embassy said that he was in contact with Cairo over the issue.

But, according to a report by Associated Press (AP) agency from Cairo quoting Egyptian education ministry officials, students from Jordan, Iraq, Yemen, Palestinians and Sudan will not be allowed to continue their higher education at Egyptian universities.

The report said the Egyptian authorities justified the decision by saying that these students come from countries which are supportive of Iraq, and their presence in Egypt was a possible security risk. Arabs and other foreigners normally pay about \$350 a year to the Egyptian government in return for acceptance at Egyptian universities. This does not include the tuition.

According to the Cairo report, students already enrolled will not be dropped, but those applying for the first time will not be allowed entry and enrollment.

King congratulates Austria

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday sent a cable to Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, congratulating him on his country's national day and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the Austrian people further progress and prosperity.

Former minister calls for private sector insurance plan

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A former minister of health is calling for a new health insurance scheme that would insure people employed by the private sector who are not already covered by any type of insurance.

Dr. Zeid Hamzeh, an ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialist, the originator of the idea of having a "new" insurance programme said: "Now is as good a time as any to add a third type of health insurance to the two existing ones." "We need a third insurance programme to cover the uncovered," he added, referring to the people in the "private sector" who, unlike government and army employees, are uncovered by health insurance.

"I suggested this programme even before the economic problems began," Hamzeh told the Jordan Times. "But I was met with reluctant company employers who said they did not have the money to spend on such a programme for their employees."

Hamzeh said the economic problems Jordan was experiencing were only excuses for not establishing this "third" insurance programme.

Petra Tours company Manager Awami Kassar said that adopting a health insurance programme by his company depended entirely on his employees.

"In the past," Kassar said, "the employees resisted the idea of having money taken from their salaries each month."

But with the high costs of medical treatment some employees may consider entering an insurance plan, according to Kassar.

Hamzeh maintained that the insurance programme was not something that was developed

from nothing. "We already have two different types of insurance in the country that have worked well," he said.

Since two per cent of government employees salaries was set aside for health insurance, this "third" insurance system could follow the same principle, Hamzeh asserted.

"Company employees could pay two per cent each month for health insurance and employers would be responsible for the rest if the bill exceeded the two per cent," he explained.

Kassar said that if his employees were ready to give up part of their salaries for health insurance, he would be ready to introduce the idea of insurance package deals.

"Those covered will then use the medical facilities in the private sector," Kassar said.

Some people are under the impression that special facilities must be built before the "third" system is adopted, the former health minister said. "But we already have doctors, hospitals, pharmacies, and laboratories in the private sector."

"Those covered by the 'third' system will use the existing facilities for treatment," he added.

Dr. Zuhair Malhas an internist and also former minister of health, said the programme should be adopted and it will be a success, especially with the escalating costs of medical treatment.

"The cost of medication and treatment is outrageous," Malhas said.

"An estimated 90 per cent of Jordan's population is unable to pay private hospitals and medical fees."

There are many people who are ready to pay a price for treatment, they face a medical crisis, Malhas said. But once these people are treated and get their medical bills, their

financial crisis begins."

Malhas insisted that a political decision is necessary for this programme to be instated. "All decisions are political," Malhas said. "The economic and financial factors must then help in applying these decisions."

Mohammed Al Saqaf, general manager of the Social Security Corporation, said that the management is studying this programme.

"We must define all the necessary requirements that would make this national goal possible," Saqaf said. He said the study would take at least six months to finish.

"The management feels that if this new programme is adopted, it will be instated gradually," Saqaf said.

He said the programme could start insuring company employees, or retirees, and would then extend to include all those in the private sector who are not presently insured.

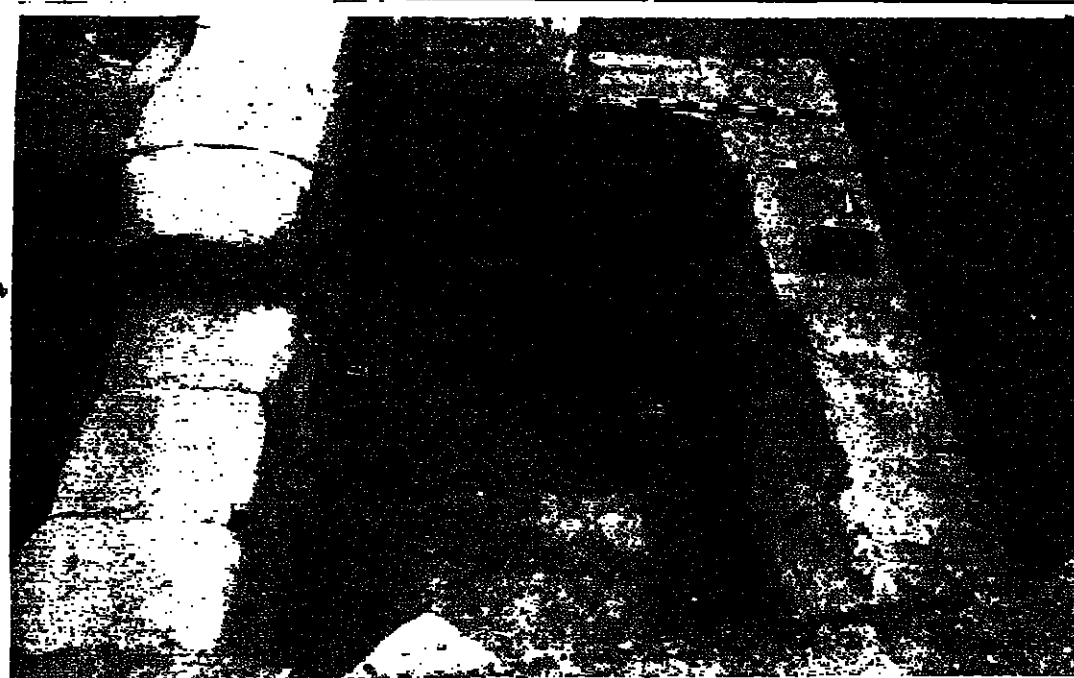
According to Hamzeh, there is no ideal health insurance system in any country in the world. "We don't need to copy any country's health insurance system," he said. "Nationalisation of medicine, for example, has failed even in socialist countries."

In Britain, there are 20 different health insurance systems in the private sector alone, he said. "What is suitable for one country is not necessarily the ideal for another," Hamzeh pointed out.

He maintains that legislative action is necessary to make this medical programme possible.

"I was a politician but couldn't instate this programme," Hamzeh said. "All it will take is one legislative action."

"Unless it is imposed by law that every employer must have medical insurance for his employees, this programme will never be adopted," he said.



A burial site discovered in Yasileh in 1988 (photo courtesy, Department of Antiquities)

Yasileh — a new archaeological site in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Yasileh, which lies in the centre of a vast agricultural region, is located approximately 7 kilometres east of Irbid. Though it lies in the area where many surveys have already been carried out, the site of Yasileh does not seem to have been mentioned at all until the accidental discovery of a tomb in the spring of 1988. Since then, three seasons of excavations were conducted in 1988, 1989 and 1990 by the joint team of the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at Yarmouk University and the Department of Antiquities headed by Dr. Zeidoun Muhsen.

From the viewpoint of topography, the site is divided by Wadi Yasileh into eastern and western areas. The slopes of the eastern area overlook the whole site. The information collected at present attests that the main period of Yasileh was inhabited lasted from the end of the Hellenistic period to the late Islamic periods.

During the first season, works concentrated on the tomb discovered in 1988. The researchers carried out in this zone permitted to recognise the existence of a rock-cut necropolis located in the eastern slope overlooking Wadi Yasileh. The number of the funeral chambers recognised during 1988 and 1989's seasons reached thirty. Twenty of them

were unearthed completely. Individual burial sites were also found beneath these chambers.

Abundant objects were collected in the tombs because they were only partially pillaged in the ancient times. These objects consist of pottery (pots, lamps), a number of glass and metal objects (jewellery, cross). They are dated to the Roman and the Byzantine periods.

While the excavation of the necropolis was being carried out, attention was also paid to a terrace situated on the west bank of Wadi Yasileh. A sounding has revealed that there lay a mosaic pavement belonging to a church. After the definite plan was traced, it was found that the church comprised three naves and an apse. The study of the pavement shows that the mosaic, consisting of panels disposed symmetrically, was almost entirely of geometric style, except for some vegetal motifs, such as foliage, grapes, pomegranates. Some remains suggest that representations of animals (peacock) were included too.

A series of soundings was therefore carried out in order to survey the various areas of occupation at the site. One of these soundings has revealed a rock-cut unit in the north, on the eastern side of the wadi. It comprises an outside court, several halls as well as tanks and cisterns.

It is attested that the building was used continuously during the Roman and the Byzantine periods, by the coins found in the earth of the principal room, and the marks and graffiti engraved on the walls.

In the west of this unit, on the east bank of the wadi, two soundings were revealed stone walls carefully dressed. In the season of 1990 this area was excavated extensively. Consequently, the walls were identified as parts of a large building which measures about 18 metres in length and 9.5 metres in width. It consists of five rooms, one of which has semi-circular wall. This building seems to have had a public function, though definite evidence has not been found yet. The pottery sherds suggested that the building was founded at the end of the Hellenistic period and continued till late Roman period. Moreover, it was revealed that there lay another building which was made of undressed stones, though a very small part was brought to light so far.

The results obtained during the first three campaigns are therefore extremely encouraging. Besides the continuation of the excavations inside the necropolis area and the church, it is necessary to carry out extensive excavations in the northern area where the existence of building complexes was revealed.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Racism or hypocrisy?

THE MOST recent U.N. Security Council Resolution, Number 673, on the Jerusalem massacre that took place two weeks ago is in essence a kid glove approach to naked Israeli defiance of the council's earlier resolution, Number 672, which called for the dispatch of a U.N. fact-finding mission to investigate the atrocity. The text of the new resolution is so weak that it just appeals to Tel Aviv to reconsider its rejection of Resolution 672. In it, there is not the slightest hint that sanctions of any kind would be applied against Israel should the Shamir government persist in flouting the will of the international community. This is all of course in marked contrast with the council's approach to the Gulf crisis where the U.N. viewed its series of resolutions on the Kuwaiti situation as sacred decisions requiring full and faithful implementation by Iraq at the risk of not only total economic blockade but also war.

There is no denying that the Gulf crisis is distinguishable from the Jerusalem massacre in which tens of Palestinians were shot to death in cold blood by Israeli soldiers. But the heart of the matter in both cases is the same, except perhaps in that Jerusalem has now been an occupied and annexed city not for weeks but for more than two decades. Moreover Security Council resolutions are equally binding.

It would be interesting to gauge how the Security Council is going to deal with Israel's latest rejection of yet another resolution on the Jerusalem massacre. Now that Tel Aviv has openly declared to friend and foe alike that it will simply ignore Resolution 673 as it did to Resolution 672 before it is up to the permanent members of the council to show the world how deep its commitment to its own resolutions in fact is. The least we should expect from the council under the circumstances is to be self-respecting enough to apply sanctions equally vehemently against Israel.

And as if it was not sufficient for Washington to veto any language in Resolution 673 that would even hint that such sanctions might be contemplated, it has also approved recently another fat aid package to Israel that topped last year's by no less than \$700 million. No wonder then that Tel Aviv feels confident enough to stand up to anything that the U.N. decides.

President Bush had personally appealed to Shamir to accept the U.N. fact-finding mission before SCR 673 was adopted, but he was rebuffed. How, with this in mind, could anyone expect Saddam Hussein to trust the Americans with ever pursuing a fair and objective policy towards the Arabs, we do not know. What we are positive about, however, is that if a Bush appeal, as opposed to threats, was directed towards Saddam the response would have been so much different. Alas, the American president & co. do not want to hear of such difference — not in nuance but of substance. Shoot the aggressor if he is Arab. Pat him on the back if he is Israeli or Jewish. This is the lowest form of racism that any American can practise. It is not just double standards.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

BY IMPOSING a siege on the occupied Arab territories, the Israelis have completed the chain of "siege conspiracy" imposed first on Iraq, then Jordan and later on the occupied Arab lands, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The siege on the Arab towns in the Israeli-held territories forms the most severe action yet to be taken by the Zionists and could result in an all-out unprecedented confrontation in the life of the intifada, the paper said. While this is happening, the American administration is trying to busy itself with the futile debate at the Security Council to convince Israel to accept Resolution 672, which has been rejected by the Israeli government in defiance of the international legitimacy which the United States was pretending to protect and uphold, the paper continued. Washington, said the paper, did not of course remember and does not want to remember the kind of international legitimacy which it resorted to in order to secure Security Council sanctions on Iraq when it comes to the on-going atrocities in the Arab territories. The sieges on the occupied Arab territories and Iraq are closely linked, and the one imposed on Jordan is intended to force this country to kneel and succumb to the will of the foreign powers and accept their presence in the Arab lands, added the paper. This dangerous situation, said the paper, calls for vigilance on the part of the Arab countries and requires a concerted effort not only to end the siege on Iraq and Jordan but also to extend a helping hand to the Palestinians to help them determine their own future on their liberated land.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily urges the concerned authorities to be flexible in dealing with the question of energy-saving measures and in applying government orders to cut down on energy spending. Salah Abdul Samad admits that there is real need to reduce energy consumption, but the measures being applied on the streets are not effective. The writer notes that public safety requirements warrant that all streets are reasonably lit, but not dark as is the case in many of the streets in the poor districts. Bends and curves in the road specially require strong light so that no road accidents can occur, he adds. In some cases the authorities have removed lamps from streets which are already poorly lit making the place dark and bleak and not saving much of energy, the writer continues. "We do not want to see dark streets becoming darker lest we do harm to public safety, and no one would benefit should unpleasant things happen to people in the dark," he said. By lighting the streets reasonably enough the authorities will be contributing to providing protection and safety to the public, he said.

In search of an elegant solution

By Izzat Dajani

ELEGANCE is not a term restricted to style, fashion, general appearance or good looks. It best expresses the outcome of successful negotiations whereby each party feels it has maximised its gains, minimised the adversary's satisfaction in exchange for long-run returns, minimised conflict and minimised personal losses. Hence, the result is an "elegant solution," a term devised by Harvard Professor David Knechtle.

The Gulf crisis is an ideal case whereby a solution acceptable to all parties concerned is most needed to avoid a destructive war. In negotiations, the primary requirement is to identify the key actors or players since the best course of action for each player depends on what other players do. This is the basic rule in "game theory." The Gulf crisis is currently a dispute between Iraq and the USA-led coalition. However, the USA remains to be the key player in the conflict with almost no role for the Kuwaitis, though it is the latter's country that is disputed. It is then correct to assume that it is an American-Iraqi dispute, trivialised by concentrating on personal conflict as in Bush-Saddam. The issues involved are far greater than personality cults, though these persons are key and their involvement is essential in the search for an elegant solution.

One of the main obstacles in the Gulf crisis has been the American response. The USA demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi troops. It led a coalition in cornering Iraq and making it impossible for the latter to withdraw. The USA thus assumed a zero-sum option. This is extremely hazardous and is usually the final resolve when negotiations break. Yet the USA opted for this from the beginning. It is worthy to note here that the strategy of pure conflict precludes any meeting of the minds, whereas the strategy of coordination involves trying to understand the other's point of view, searching for shared clues. Iraq tried to counter-attack this zero-sum option by offering some concessions such as the release of a number of Europeans and Americans, trapped

in Kuwait and Iraq, and announcing its early intentions of withdrawing from Kuwait. It also offered a withdrawal in exchange for the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Palestinian territory, and Israel and Syria from Lebanon. Though concessions are important symbolically as indicators of where expectations should converge, the USA insisted on a restrictive agenda of Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, as it is unable to negotiate certain points where Israel is involved and in face of the powerful Israeli lobby AIPAC in the U.S. Another point to add here is that a negotiator's art must include an ability to anticipate the other side's decision-making process, and hopefully to influence it. This means taking into account contrasts in the "culture" of decision-making, as well as their personal styles. In our opinion, both Iraq and the U.S. scored badly here. Iraq failed to influence the Americans by prolonging its messages and making them too long for the other party to follow. It thus allowed its opposition to use certain excerpts leading to the loss of the message. The Iraqi attitude carried great emotions with it, factors not viewed favourably in the West. On the other hand the U.S. failed to understand the emotional commitment of the Iraqi people behind their leadership. Also it failed to appreciate the influence of various members of the Iraqi Revolutionary Council on the decision-making. Again the American message is lost in the dark tunnel of the unknown.

The U.S. is employing what is known as "competitive tactics" by imposing time pressure and appearing firm. Its high demands and very slow concessions are motivated by concern about position loss and image loss. It is concerned about its constituents and allies if it begins to look weak. There seems to be a complete lack of concessional exchange and problem solving discussions, whereby in the former, both Iraq and U.S. need to move toward one another on a single dimension or swap concessions on different dimensions. In the latter, they both need to share information about goals and priorities in search of an option that will satisfy both parties' needs, i.e. integrative agreement.

ment.

This brings us to an important issue in complex negotiations: third party intervention. It usually has the function of resolving a difficult controversy that is dangerous to continue. It is the process known as "mediation." France and the Soviet Union seem to be the most suitable to assume this role. Britain's attitude, best looked at as pathetic, makes it an unacceptable mediator as is the case of many other nations. France's performance, in particular, is spectacular in this crisis. It managed to stand firm, upset all parties, please all parties, and yet earn everybody's respect and admiration. It understands the rules of the game, diverts from them when it can, and sticks to them whenever the situation demands. France is now looked at favourably by the Iraqis, Americans Europeans (possibly excluding envious Britain), both Arab camps and Israel. The Soviet Union can carry the assurances that Iraq needs in its negotiations. Mediation is not an easy task by anybody's standards, since the mediators have virtually no power. If they make a suggestion for terms of settlement or if they express their own views regarding the conduct of the parties, these expressions carry no weight beyond the force of their own persuasive impact. Mediators need here to identify the demands and put them in categories, a process that involves placement of priorities, some demands being more important than others. These include: the withdrawal of Iraq from most Kuwaiti territory; the fate of the Al-Sabah family; the size of the future Kuwaiti army; Iraq's method of control over the strategic islands under dispute; the Remila oil field; the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states; the presence of an "Arab" peace keeping mission along the Iraq-Kuwait border; the abolition of all Security Council resolutions against Iraq; the start of negotiations, under an international umbrella, to secure Israeli withdrawal and the establishment of a Palestinian state; Syria; Lebanon; and so on. Thus the mediators have a tremendous task in categorising all the re-

lated issues and tackling them in order of priority, ensuring that the agenda remains restrictive, in order not to get lost in too much a detail and too wide an issue.

An important function of mediation remains to help take heat off the parties. It may also allow some heat to develop because it may promote settlement. However, mediators need somehow to learn the limits beyond which the sides will not go. As most mediators will not recommend settlement terms unless asked to do so by the parties it is estimated in this crisis that mediators, such as France with great reliance on responsibly-led countries such as Jordan, will inject viewpoints into the negotiations making them more effective. Such injections might be critical for face-saving and narrowing the issues. Hence, while mediators have no power to force parties to settle, they can exert strong influence.

This leads us to a vital element in the current crisis that needs discussion. This is the issue of entrapment. To exemplify this, one type of conflict in which entrapment commonly occurs is an "auction" in which bidding typically escalates at increasing cost to the participants. Gambling, similarly, is another conflict situation in which entrapment is likely to occur — particularly when the gambler wishes to recoup losses he has already incurred and therefore decides to roll the dice "just one more time." In both examples, the vital parameter is "time" which can be an investment and an expense. The passage of time is an investment to the extent that it is seen as increasing the likelihood of goal attainment, as found by Professor J. Rubin of Tufts University. Iraq thus feels that time is on its side and eventually the international community will accept its annexation of Kuwait. However, as time passes, the cost associated with continued waiting increases, but so does the presumed proximity to the goal. Hence, the greater the passage of time, the greater the pressure to act decisively — either by withdrawing or by committing itself to remain in the situation. The danger lies when the decision to wait has been made, the tendency to approach increases

more rapidly than the tendency to avoid entrapment becomes likely to occur. The U.S. became entrapped by assuming the leading "police" role in the Gulf crisis. It took on a zero-sum option, it formed an international coalition versus Iraq, and it committed itself to no negotiation or concession. Hence, its image is directly connected to this, and the more time passes the greater the commitment, and the closer it feels to attaining its motive, and the more the entrapment Iraq on the other hand is also entrapped as its whole image is attached to its annexation of Kuwait, and the longer it holds to Kuwait, the more its defiance and the greater its entrapment. The main consolation here is that as both parties are entrapped, there is more likelihood that both have vested interest in some measure of conciliation within a time frame to get out of this and reach a working solution.

Roger Fisher in his book "Getting to Yes" wrote about a vital element in negotiations called BATNA (Best Alternative to a Negotiated Agreement). BATNA is a measure for agreements that will protect one against accepting an agreement it should reject, or rejecting an agreement it should accept. It is a standard against which any proposed agreement should be measured. BATNA gives one the advantage of being flexible enough to permit the exploration of imaginative solutions which might meet one's bottom line and satisfy its interests. Each party must have carefully thought about what other alternatives there are if it fails to reach an agreement — having no other alternatives in mind is like negotiating with closed eyes. It must be noted that the better your BATNA, the greater your power. Iraq needs to consider the U.S.'s BATNA. It needs to think about the alternatives that the U.S. might have. It needs to convert the most promising into practical options and select tentatively the option that seems the best. The U.S. is in a tricky situation. There is rising concern about the real and true motive behind its involvement in the Gulf. "Iraqgate" is becoming an issue that is likely to embarrass the

administration as it had prior knowledge of Iraq's imminent takeover of Kuwait but opted to remain silent! It appears that the U.S. encouraged Iraq in its action so as to apply its heat and condemnation to Iraq in order to dilute its military might, and hence secure oil and safeguard Israel's security and best interests. The American economy is in shambles and will suffer a great set-back if the Gulf crisis is prolonged. The U.S.-led coalition is unlikely to last forever. If war erupts, its scale of destruction is beyond imagination with imminent world recession. Hence, the U.S. has vital interests in reaching an elegant solution. It needs to consider its BATNA.

Finally, our hope is that both Iraq and the U.S. consider their many negotiating options. They need to come to terms with identifying the "possible" and categorising it above the "ideal." It is after all we who live in the world of the possible that is far away from any ideal. In this article, we did not recommend any one solution, but we drew a plan of different negotiating scenarios so as to reach elegant solution, the elements of which would include:

- The solution is better than any party's BATNA.
- All relevant parties are committed to making the solution work.
- The solution produces a good working relationship.
- The solution is appropriate to long term goals.
- The solution is feasible for implementation.
- There is clear understanding between parties as to the meaning of the solution.
- No joint interests are remaining to be addressed.
- The process by which agreement was achieved is seen by all parties to have been fair.

May I leave you with the following excerpt by Jeffrey Pfeffer in "Power in Organisations":

"Power is perpetuated through commitment, although commitment creates resistance to change. It is hard to go back on a choice made publicly."

U.S., Israel do not see eye-to-eye

By Alan Elsner
Reuters

WASHINGTON. — Israel's relationship with the United States, its guardian ally, has degenerated into a bitter slanging match, causing serious concern to officials on both sides.

Israeli diplomats and U.S. officials who had argued for months that the relationship was merely passing through one of its periodic bumpy periods, with nothing fundamentally wrong, have now dropped that pretence.

"Let's face it, trust and confidence on both sides have been degraded to the point that channels of communication are just not functioning," a Bush administration official said.

"With the current cast of characters on either side, I just don't see things returning to an even keel very quickly."

An Israeli source complained: "It's as if we were broadcasting on different wavelengths. There seems to be no understanding of our viewpoint at all."

Officials on both sides now acknowledge what has been hinted at for months: President George Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir cannot abide each other.

Secretary of State James Baker and Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, after a promising start, also distrust one another and avoid personal contact.

An American Jewish leader who has watched with dismay as the situation has deteriorated over the past two years said: "Personal relations between Bush and Shamir and between Baker and Levy are awful."

"There is a complete lack of trust in both directions and there is no sign of an end to it. We are talking about a problem that will endure."

Officials on both sides say they would like to make a fresh start. They emphasise the importance of returning to private diplomatic exchanges.

In the current inflamed situation, that may be difficult. Despite agreeing earlier this week to stop leaks of confidential bilateral communications, the Israelis

promptly leaked Bush's latest message to Shamir.

How did relations reach their current low point?

There have always been differences over the Arab-Israeli peace process and Israel's policy of building settlements in occupied Arab territories.

But under former President Ronald Reagan, who saw Israel as a bulwark against Soviet influence in the Middle East, such disagreements were overshadowed by a deep personal commitment to the well-being of the Jewish state.

Bush and especially Baker — who has never visited Israel and shows no sign of wanting to — clearly do not share this gut feeling of sympathy and solidarity with the Jewish state.

Meanwhile, Israel's strategic importance has been diluted by the end of the cold war.

Boiling point came earlier this month with the killings in Jerusalem by Israeli police of at least 17 Palestinians, during a demonstration by Palestinians in which Jewish worshippers were attacked with stones.

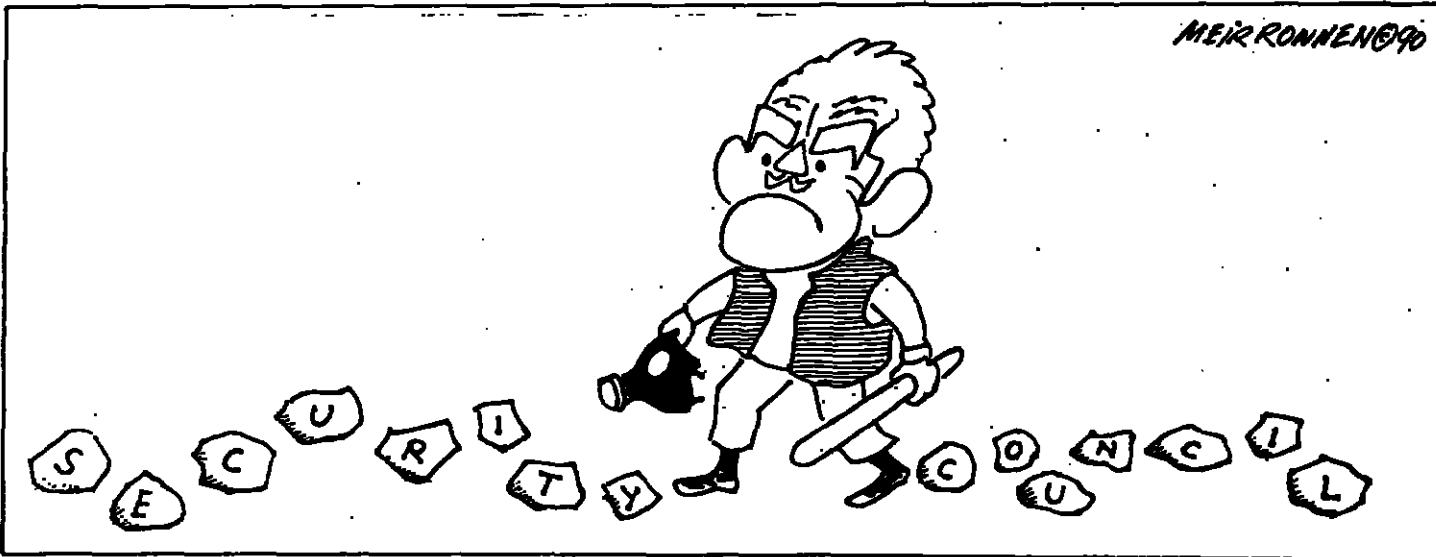
Bush's anger at what he regarded as Israel's excessive use of force was combined with deep annoyance that Israel had — as Baker said in a letter to Levy — played into the hands of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein by allowing him to shift world attention from the Gulf to Jerusalem.

Anxious to preserve the international coalition against Iraq — especially its Arab components — the United States cast two votes against Israel in quick succession in the United Nations Security Council.

The second vote earlier this week, deploring Israel's refusal to accept a U.N. team to investigate the Jerusalem incident, hit Israelis especially hard.

They took it to mean there were almost no limits as to how far Washington would go to placate Arab allies and maintain the united front against Saddam.

"The first vote we could understand even if we did not agree with it," an Israeli source said. "But the second is merely



pandering to Arab extremists and inviting more and more anti-Israel resolutions.

"Eventually, the United States will be forced to use its veto, anyway."

Israel's position in Congress remains strong. Its annual three billion-dollar aid allocation was approved by a large majority this

week and there were overwhelming votes to grant it more military aid to help it face the new Iraqi threat.

The American Jewish lobby

Americans 'plumb fed up' with Washington politics

By Scott McCartney
Associated Press

MESQUITE, Texas — Retired sheet metal worker Ben McAbee knows politics is rarely pretty, but lately, he says, what's been going on in Washington has been downright disgusting.

"I think people are getting plumb fed up with it," McAbee said.

From California, where 20-year-old Monique Osborne said simply, "I think it's way bad," to Maryland, where Vincent Broco described the U.S. government as a "circus," anti-Washington sentiment is running deeper than the deficit.

In Tampa, Florida, there's a group called "Throw the scumbags out." Radio call-in shows across the country hear strong anti-Washington sentiments.

The Albuquerque (New Mexico) Tribune set up a phone line for readers who want to complain. Newspaper ads have suggested that all incumbents be tossed overboard.

The showdown over a new budget between Congress and

President George Bush has outraged many voters in advance of the Nov. 6 elections, the district of Columbia is dismissed as the district of contempt.

"They would have to clean Washington right out completely and start over," said Don Hart, who was running errands last week in downtown Traverse City, Michigan. "Disgusted" isn't the word. "Mad" would be a better one."

Many everyday Americans interviewed around the country this week said they were following the budget battle closely, and didn't like what they saw. From Bush down, no one appeared immune to wrath. Politicians' performances seem to have gotten worse over the years, people said, and this year is the worst yet.

"I'm pretty upset about it actually," said Neil Tucker, a 34-year-old commercial real estate broker in Baltimore. "We elect these people to represent us and they're more concerned with their special interests and getting re-elected than voting their convictions."

"I blame leadership," Tucker added. "I blame the people in Congress. They're all basically a bunch of jokers."

"I'm not going to vote for a single incumbent," said Tomas Martinez, a New Mexico state government clerk who lives in Albuquerque. "I think it's time to give others a chance. ... Maybe they'll think more like a consumer, like a taxpayer, rather than remaining in office feathering their own nest."

Polls show public confidence in government is at a two-decade low, and Bush's approval ratings at their lowest levels of his presidency.

Congress' approval ratings are even lower — a Newsweek Magazine poll found 52 per cent would be willing to fire the whole Congress. And a recent ABC news/Washington Post poll found a record 79 per cent of those surveyed said the country is on the wrong track.

The've got no respect for us and we've got no respect for them," said farmer David Guise, who runs a fruit stand outside Dallas. "It's a helluva mess. Washington has got too many

millionaires in there, and they don't care about the working man."

"As far as pointing fingers, I think it's everybody's fault," said Art McArdle, who administers a surveyor's apprenticeship programme in Oakland, California. "It's an appalling situation. I think the problem is they've known that this was going to happen and they didn't take the bull by the horns soon enough."

"Yes, I'm following it," construction worker Gary King in Des Moines, Iowa, said of the budget battle. "I've been following it for 12 years and it seems like it always falls on the working-class man. It doesn't make a whole lot of sense."

At the diplomat mall in Hallandale, Florida, where many senior citizens live, Laura Goldman said: "We're all watching it. Look, we're on fixed incomes. They're talking about increasing the cost of Medicare? They should decrease it."

"I don't think I will ever be straightened out. I have grandchildren, and I worry about that budget deficit for them."

added. "I blame the people in Congress. They're all basically a bunch of jokers."

"I'm not going to vote for a single incumbent," said Tomas Martinez, a New Mexico state government clerk who lives in Albuquerque. "I think it's time to give others a chance. ... Maybe they'll think more like a consumer, like a taxpayer, rather than remaining in office feathering their own nest."

Polls show public confidence in government is at a two-decade low, and Bush's approval ratings at their lowest levels of his presidency.

Congress' approval ratings are even lower — a Newsweek Magazine poll found 52 per cent would be willing to fire the whole Congress. And a recent ABC news/Washington Post poll found a record 79 per cent of those surveyed said the country is on the wrong track.

The've got no respect for us and we've got no respect for them," said farmer David Guise, who runs a fruit stand outside Dallas. "It's a helluva mess. Washington has got too many

First call for children — a world responsibility

Her Majesty Queen Noor talks about the World Summit on Children

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Our children must be given a better future. These innocent dependent souls should have a life of joy and peace," Her Majesty Queen Noor said, upon her return from the World Summit for Children that was held in New York last month. The summit, intended to secure the rights of children and to reduce child mortality estimated by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to be 40,000 children a day, was attended by 75 heads of states. It was organized by six countries: Canada, Sweden, Pakistan, Mali, Mexico and Egypt.

During the summit, world leaders were required to sign a convention on the rights of children which had come into effect Sept. 2, 1990 as binding international law. Many countries signed it, including Jordan, making it the fastest human rights convention to become law. "As representative of His Majesty King Hussein, I signed the convention. There was a child witness from each country who also signed it. A Jordanian child witnessed my signing it," Her Majesty told.

The Jordan Times in an exclusive interview. She also added that "...the government of Jordan has endorsed the convention. I anticipate that it will soon be incorporated in the Jordanian legislature." Asked what measures will be taken if any of the countries that signed the convention violated the rights of its children, the Queen said, "there is no disciplinary force, the heads of states will have to answer to their people and the existing organs of the international community."

The Queen was very impressed by the summit's emphasis on giving children a first priority in what she referred to as its motto "first call for children." "First call for children should also include national resources. First call on the commitment of resources in the international community should be to address the underlying causes of children's suffering," the Queen noted.

According to Queen Noor, the summit's nature did not allow for special discussions of the Middle East, since certain themes which include ensuring child survival, protecting children, and enhancing child development were the focus of discussions in the summit.

None the less the Queen stressed that many countries, including Jordan, presented their points on children in document form. Her Majesty also said that the Tunisian representative in the summit read a statement derived from the declaration of the Arab child, which was drafted in Tunis. "It (the declaration) highlighted the need to protect the children of the intifada, Lebanon and other war stricken areas in the region against the scourges and pains of wars and armed conflicts," Queen Noor said.

The Queen also said that she was able to meet privately with heads of state to discuss the Jordanian position in specific and the Middle East region in general in regards to children. "Through private conversations with heads of state, I was able to specifically address the very special situation of children not only in Jordan but in the region," the Queen said.

Her Majesty also discussed the recent Gulf crisis and the need to reach a peaceful settlement to the crisis in order to ensure the welfare of the region and the world. "Children not only in the Middle East but all over the world will be affected. Jordan, politically, has been trying to emphasize

that the escalation of the tension in the area is dangerous, not only because it is having a devastating effect on Jordan and the Middle East region, but also repercussions on other countries, especially those of the developing world," the Queen said. Her Majesty also pointed out the effect the United Nations embargo against Iraq, had on Jordan's economy. "Those to whom I spoke and with whom I discussed the impact of the embargo on our children were all very much concerned about the crisis, and were very receptive to our point of view," the Queen said.

Queen Noor also tackled the problem of the evacuees who fled Kuwait to Jordan after Aug. 2 invasion. "Many were surprised by the economic burden the evacuees had on the resources in Jordan. There was general ignorance of what Jordan had committed itself to. Jordan has given so much without any meaningful compensation," Her Majesty said. Queen Noor also praised the role of Jordanians in lending a hand to the plight of the evacuees. "The whole of Jordan had sought to care for these desperate people. They have sacrificed to care for the eva-

cuees," Her Majesty said.

Queen Noor expressed a wish to hold a follow-up children's summit "to see what has been done with the commitments of the summit." "I agree very much with the idea of a follow-up summit within countries to mark the first anniversary," the Queen said. Her Majesty also suggested that Jordan hold its own evaluation on "what we have achieved."

If such a follow-up summit is held and children from Jordan are asked to participate, the Queen said Jordan will respond favourably to such a request. Her Majesty also said she was proud of all Jordanian children, especially in the way they have expressed their commitment to peace in the region. "It was mentioned many times, and many people noticed the strong yearning of Jordanian children for peace and stability," the Queen said. Queen Noor also praised the abilities of Jordanian children in comprehending the problems of the region. "The children are very articulate and politically aware. They are also very knowledgeable and sensitive, and have a great deal to offer," Her Majesty said.

Queen Noor also noted that

Jordan was chosen as one of three countries to represent the region in the Education for All Conference taking place in Thailand. "We have the highest literacy rate in the region, the highest immunisation rate, the lowest child mortality rate, and the superior diarrhoea control. We are also considered a superior model in primary school enrollment, for males and females," the Queen said. Her Majesty then added, that Jordan's situation has been affected by today's crisis, and that it should work harder to face the challenges to sustain and improve the progress Jordan has been witnessing. "UNICEF has already reported an increase of malnourished children. There is a fear of an increase in the drop-out rate of girls in primary schools, a decrease in females who seek out prenatal help, and a decrease in the number of women who are left unattended during labour and birth," the Queen noted.

"...We should strive to give our children a chance to live in peace and harmony, and to mature in security and stability," Queen Noor concluded, echoing a message by His Majesty King Hussein at the World Summit for Children.



Aziz assails U.S., Britain

(Continued from page 1)

it?" said Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Subah, according to the Saudi Daily Al Sharq Al Awsat.

"As a citizen and responsible official, I am ready to sacrifice everything for the sake of regaining my land and liberating it, and that is how each ordinary Kuwaiti thinks," Sheikh Saad, who is also the crown prince, was reported as saying.

According to the newspaper, Sheikh Saad left the door open for negotiations with Iraq on disputed islands, but only after its

withdrawal from his country, according to reports published Friday.

Asked about the future of Warbah and Bubiyan islands, which have long been sought by Iraq, Sheikh Saad said "there can be no talk with the aggressor on our land and people as long as his forces occupy our country."

He added that any dialogue would have to be within a pan-Arab framework under the auspices of the Arab League.

Iraq has claimed the two islands to give it an expanded outlet to the Gulf, and unsuccessfully tried to lease them during the eight-year Gulf war.

Primakov convinced of prospects

(Continued from page 1)

France and Britain recently. Abdul Meguid said the Soviet envoy does not appear to be trying to mediate between Iraq and other Arab countries.

"I don't think he (Primakov) is on a mission of mediation between Arab countries and Iraq," Abdul Meguid told reporters. "He's trying to find a peaceful solution and to avert war, and we are all attempting that."

On his earlier visit to Baghdad, Primakov reportedly persuaded Iraq to allow evacuation of an estimated 5,000 Soviet citizens stranded in Iraq.

Primakov is expected to visit Saudi Arabia.

On Wednesday, Primakov refused to say if Iraq had offered a partial withdrawal from Kuwait. "I am not a messenger," he told Reuters Wednesday when asked if he would deliver Saddam messages from Western and Arab states he visited in recent weeks.

Mubarak has proposed an all-Arab defence arrangement for the Gulf region after the Gulf

crisis is settled, published reports said Friday.

Non-Arab countries "should only help in supplying arms that are requested," the Egyptian leader said in statements carried by the Gulf papers, Bahraini Al Akhbar Al Khaleej and the United Arab Emirates' Al Khaleej.

Mubarak reportedly made the comments to Egyptian editors on the conclusion of a four-day Gulf tour which took him to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman.

Mubarak reportedly made the proposal to Gulf leaders.

He also told them that "Egypt was fully prepared to cooperate with them on whatever visualization" they agreed upon for the post-crisis security arrangements of the region.

The Gulf reports quoted Mubarak as offering Saudi Arabia an additional armoured brigade and warplanes, including U.S.-made F-16s and French-made Mirages.

Beirut

(Continued from page 1)

to be carried out "in the coming few days."

The minister said three Palestinian refugee camps would not be included in the plan, but Palestinian arms would not be allowed outside the shantytowns.

In other Lebanon-related developments:

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) condemned the United States Thursday for saying Palestinian groups in Lebanon should be disbanded as part of the Taif peace plan.

The PLO vigorously condemned this U.S. interference in a Palestinian-Syrian-Lebanese affair," the PLO news agency Wafa said, quoting an official source.

The U.S. ambassador to Syria, Edward Djerejian, told a news briefing Wednesday that Palestinian armed groups had to disband under the Taif peace agreement.

Wafa said Djerejian had "set himself up as U.S. high commissioner for Syria and Lebanon and interfered in defining the quality of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon."

The Middle East Council of Churches Friday appealed for the reconciliation of the Christian and Muslim communities of Lebanon.

The statement was issued following the Oct. 13 defeat of the militia by Lebanon's Christian army commander Michel Aoun and the reunification of the Christian and Muslim sectors of Beirut.

Lebanon's Maronite Catholic Church Thursday demanded the release of rebel officers detained by the Syrian army after the defeat of Aoun.

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy warned Syria Thursday not to jeopardise Israeli "interests" in Lebanon.

Admiral predicts 6-month war

(Continued from page 1)

Asked if the United States has the political will for such casualties he said, "Only if we do this rather quickly. That is if we go in and have some immediate success and then can see the termination by say five or six months."

"The U.S. will simply not stand for another Vietnam operation," Laroque said.

In other Gulf-related developments:

Iraq's chemical warfare capability is exaggerated and Saudi Arabia has the potential to repel any attack, a Saudi general was quoted as saying on Friday.

"As a military man who has been in the army for more than 20 years, I tell you honestly that Iraq's chemical weapons are not as people imagine," Major General Turki Ben Hudeijan was quoted as saying by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspaper Al Bayan.

The Saudi forces and the joint troops have technical capability to shoot down any Iraqi target carrying such materials whether through aircraft, missiles or any other means," he said.

Hudeijan is the commander of the 10,000-strong joint Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) troops currently stationed in northern Saudi Arabia.

Former British Prime Minister Edward Heath, who met with Saddam Hussein earlier this week, has reportedly told British legislators that the Iraqi President told him he is ready to use chemical weapons if attacked.

Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency, reported that Heath was understood to have made his remarks to a group of rank-and-file Conservative Party lawmakers at a private meeting Thursday.

"Mr. Heath is said to have expressed the view that the Iraqi

leader was ruthless, cold and calculating, but not mad," Press Association reported.

Heath "is understood to have told them (the lawmakers) that Saddam Hussein had warned that the West should not attack Iraq and that he was prepared to use chemical weapons and to ill-treat hostages," Press Association reported.

Heath, 74, who was Conservative prime minister from 1970 to 1974, met with Saddam in Baghdad Sunday and negotiated the release of 40 British passport holders.

Heath returned to Britain with the freed Britons, most of them sick and elderly men, Wednesday.

Heath met with Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd at Hurd's request for 30 minutes Thursday night to discuss the Baghdad meeting but no details of what was said were revealed.

Heath undertook his Baghdad trip as a private individual without government backing.

German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said Friday Iraq had offered to free Germans on a string of conditions, including a visit by him to Baghdad.

After talks with Hurd in Halle, Germany, Genscher told reporters: "Iraq has said it would free German hostages on certain conditions."

Asked if one condition was that Genscher visit Baghdad, he said: "This was one of them, but by no means the only one."

Hurd, who met Genscher on the eve of a special European Community (EC) summit in Rome, where the Gulf crisis is certain to be a major issue, reaffirmed Britain's view that a military solution could not be ruled out.

Israelis can shoot protesters

(Continued from page 1)

under the prevailing conditions was justified," it said.

The inquiry criticised national and local police chiefs for failing to act on information and send sufficient forces to the area where thousands of Arabs had gathered fearing ultra-nationalist Jews would attempt to lay a cornerstone for the building of a Jewish temple.

It did not answer charges by Israeli and Palestinian human rights groups that police shot bursts of automatic fire rather than single, aimed rounds.

Israeli and Palestinian human rights groups have accused the police of firing indiscriminately and without justification.

Jonathan Kuttab of the Palestinian Al Haq human rights group called the report a whitewash. "I think the Palestinian community expected a whitewash but this exceeds all our expectations," he told Reuters.

"The facts have been established to be incontrovertible both by (TV) film and the testimony of witnesses but this so-called report ignores them," he said.

Kuttab said the report did not tackle the use of automatic weapons against civilians, the firing at fleeing Palestinians and a medical personnel and ambulances.

Israeli leaders rebuffed the second condemnation in two weeks by the U.N. Security Council for the killings and played down a growing rift with the United States.

They again rejected the U.N. investigative mission, saying it would threaten Israeli "sovereignty" over Jerusalem.

Foreign Minister David Levy Thursday rejected the latest Security Council censure of Israel

and urged the world to focus on enforcing U.N. demands that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait.

Levy made the statement in a meeting with foreign diplomats a day after the Security Council criticised Israel for rejecting a U.N. investigation into the Oct. 8 killings.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, the local branch of Fateh distributed a leaflet condemning attacks on Jews and saying that Jewish and Arab blood should not be spilled.

"Blood is blood, with the same colour, and there is no difference in religions," it said. The leaflet was apparently meant to counter calls from Muslim fundamentalist groups for attacks on Israelis.

Levy's talk with diplomats, including U.S. Ambassador Wil-

liam Brown, came in his first group meeting with heads of diplomatic missions in Israel. The session was private but a Levy aide later quoted and summarised his statements.

According to the aide, Levy told the ambassadors that Israeli could not agree to a U.N. mission coming to investigate the killings since the resolution that ordered the probe was "biased."

"It is prejudging Israel's guilt, ascertaining at the outset that Jerusalem is an occupied area and that ways should be found to protect the Palestinians. We cannot agree to that," he was quoted as saying.

Yossi Ben Aharon, director-general of Shami's office, also said that Israel would ignore the latest U.N. rebuke.

Iraq said ready to discuss

(Continued from page 1)

beration Organisation (PLO) had arranged secret meetings this month between French and Iraqi officials to pave the way for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim, the PLO's representative in Jordan, was quoted as saying by the AP that one such meeting was between Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and Claude Cheysson, a member of the European Parliament, last week.

While Abdul Rahim said Cheysson, a former foreign minister, was a government envoy, the French ambassador to Amman denied that.

The ambassador, Denis Bauchard, confirmed the meeting took place. But, he said, Cheysson "did not represent the French government at the time," the AP reported.

Cheysson, Bauchard said, held talks with Aziz in his capacity as European Parliament official, not an envoy of the French government.

Bauchard also confirmed that Edgar Pisani, a special adviser to Mitterrand, had met with members of the PLO leadership in Tunis last week. He declined to give further details.

Abdul Rahim said the Aziz-Cheysson meeting was part of "the PLO's intensive effort to find a political solution to the Gulf crisis."

He said the meeting with Pisani and talks earlier with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas "indicate the seriousness of the French effort to find a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis."

"The PLO's efforts and contacts aim at initiating a negotiation process between Iraq and the parties involved in the crisis," Abdul Rahim said.

THE PROFESSIONALS ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RELIABLE

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT FORWARDING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES AND DELIVERIES, CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS.

AMIN KAWAR & SONS
TEL: 604676 804896
P.O. BOX 7806 AMMAN

CROWN INT'L EST.

packing, shipping, forwarding, storing, clearing, door-to-door service

Agents all over the world
Tel: 604988, Fax: 806852
Tlx: 22285 BESMCO JO
P.O. Box 82847 AMMAN JORDAN

EASTERN

PACKING DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES INTERNATIONAL FORWARDING AIR & SEA FREIGHT

TEL: 621 775 FAX: 656 370
TLX: 23 023 POB: 815 408
AMMAN-JORDAN

STUDIO HAIG

Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:

- JUMBO photo size 30% larger
- Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank Phone: 604042
Swedish tel: 823891

Ricardo

Amman's exclusive gift shop
Italian shoes, leather goods, perfumes, lighters, watches, pens, silverware, porcelain, crystalware etc.

Shmeisani - Grindlays Bank Bldg. Tel. 669 457

Saudi Real Estate

RENTAL 687821

SALES 687822 CALL SOHA

4 Rent & Sale

Many villas and apartments are available for rent and sale - furnished or unfurnished.

Also many lots of land are available for sale.

For further details, please call

Abdoun Real Estate
Tel. 810605, 810609, Fax: 810520

MOVING?

Let Aramex Air Cargo take care of the works Door to Door.

Call the friendly professionals on 660507 or 660508

ARAMEX AIR CARGO

RESTAURANT CHINA

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Abhiyyah Girls School

Takes away is available

Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30-Midnight
Tel. 638968

PEKING RESTAURANT

AUTHENTIC CHINESE CUISINE elegant colorful atmosphere moderate prices

Shmeisani Tel. 660220 (closed on Monday)

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket

Mongolian Barbecue for Lunch Friday only
Tel: 818214

Come and taste our specialties
Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight

Milano RESTAURANT

Best Traditional Italian Pizzas
Selection of the most delicious 2 favorite Sandwiches

Shmeisani-Fm. 12 Noon-3:30, 6:30pm-Midnight
For Take Away Call 680 670

LOBBY LOUNGE

AL SABIL

DAILY PIANO ENTERTAINMENT

The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room...

DAROTEL

Amman - Tel. 668193
P.O. Box 9403 - Fax 602434
Telex 23888 DAROTL JO
Ideal Residence For Expatriates and Businessmen

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION CALL

667171/6-670141/4
Ext. 223

Holyfield gets heavyweight title after knocking down Douglas

LAS VEGAS (Agencies) — An overweight and under-powered James "Buster" Douglas suffered some rough treatment from the critics after being knocked out in the third round of his heavyweight title fight by fellow American Evander Holyfield.

It appeared Thursday night that a much weaker opponent could have stopped the flabby, 246-pound (112 kilogramme) Douglas who entered the ring outside the Mirage Hotel.

The former champion was fat and his punches were way off the mark. Surprisingly, his body appeared much sloopier than it had at the weight-in Wednesday when he stunned the crowd by coming in more than 10 pounds (4.5 kilogrammes) heavier than expected.

"Buster Douglas was disgraceful," said veteran trainer Eddie Futch, much respected for his honesty and talent at assessing fighters.

"His timing was off, his jab had no snap... (his performance) was outlandish. He only landed one good punch in three rounds."

Futch suggested that Douglas might have decided that his \$24-million cut for the fight was not a bad cushion for a career change.

After Douglas crumpled to the canvas, where he was counted out at one minute and 10 seconds into the third round: "He was rubbing his face, then looking at his gloves for blood, which shows he was perfectly conscious. He could have got up and he chose not to do so," Futch said.

But earlier, referee Mills Lane said he thought Douglas was hurt.

Douglas, at 1.93 metres nearly five centimetres taller than Holyfield, was nowhere near the intensely-focused, sharp puncher who took Mike Tyson apart in Tokyo last February and won the undisputed world title with a 10th-round knockout.

He has mostly himself to blame for that. The ex-champion, who has a reputation for a big appetite, has frequently and proudly stated over the past few months that he was calling the shots in his camp.

His cornermen could also be criticised for allowing him to be so out of condition. They blithely admitted they had not weighed their fighter once while he was training for the bout, which had been scheduled for 12 rounds.

Douglas was looked on by many as a fluke champion, for beating what some thought was a hollow Tyson in Tokyo.

All of which may mean that Holyfield, criticised for being just a blown-up cruiserweight, may not get the respect that he might have received if he had been forced to work harder for the title against a more worthy opponent.

Holyfield, who weighed 94 kilogrammes is likely to fight George Foreman in March.

Even if the 28-year-old Holyfield wins that fight, he will probably still not get respect for his superb conditioning and relentless attacking style in the ring, until he fights Tyson for the title. That may be in the autumn of next year.

But for now, the \$8 million that Holyfield was paid for this fight — only his seventh as a heavyweight — and more importantly the tens of millions more he will get for future appearances may be some consolation.

The new champion says he became fascinated with boxing when he was just eight years old, the youngest of four boys and four girls growing up in Atlanta.

At the 1984 Olympics, Holyfield won a bronze medal at 22. He probably should have won gold but was disqualified for throwing a punch, which knocked out his opponent, after the referee had called stop.

A video of the fight showed Holyfield could not have stopped the punch in time.

But Holyfield did not rant and rave over that decision. He accepted it stoically, applying his philosophy of learning from every fight and taking solace in his religion and his mother.

"I have a strong lady in my life, my mother, who always taught me you have to live for today. Tomorrow is not always promising. And a lot of that comes from a lot of pride and a lot of faith," Holyfield said.



James "Buster" Douglas

Holyfield turned professional after a 160-14 amateur record. In July 1986, in just his 12th fight for money, Holyfield upset heavily-favoured Dwight Muhammad Qawi on points to win the World Boxing Association (WBA) junior heavyweight and International Boxing Federation (IBF) cruiserweight titles.

He added the World Boxing Council (WBC) cruiserweight title by knocking out Carlos DeLeon in April 1988.

Then he moved up to heavyweight and its heavy money against James "Quick" Tillis, who fell in the fifth round in July 1988.

Pinkie Thomas followed as an eighth-round knockout victim that December.

In the process, Holyfield, helped by intensive weightlifting and conditioning work, added 20 pounds (nine kilogrammes) of muscle.

But he never did grow to be very big. His top weight was 212 pounds (96 kilogrammes) and he fought Douglas at 208 (94 kilogrammes) which many thought was too light.

"I've had setbacks going back to my amateur career," Holyfield said. "I never was what you would call the best but I always improved."

He improved to a 25-0 record against Douglas Thursday night.

Douglas will likely be recalled as a one-fight fighter, a journeyman who made the most of his chance to grab belt, then faded back into anonymity.

He will be recalled critically by some, who will question his talent, dedication and courage.

But because of his one night of glory, his shocking knockout of Tyson in Tokyo, Douglas became, after all, a heavyweight champion for a time.

"It'll hurt not being the champion. But it was attaining a goal, becoming the champion, and not attaining another — defending the title," Douglas, sadness clearly evident on his round, almost child-like face, said after Holyfield took his undisputed world heavyweight title.

Douglas apparently caught Tyson out of shape and unfocused in their fight in Japan.

Even in the first round, it became evident that Douglas' only chance was to land a knock-out punch before Holyfield systematically destroyed him.

That powerful punch may have been a looping right uppercut in the third round. But it missed. Holyfield ducked back, then game forward with a deadly right. Douglas dropped and was counted out.

An old criticism of Douglas resurfaced — that he lacked courage.

Some critics contended he quit in the 10th round of a 1987 loss to Tony Tucker for the International Boxing Federation (IBF) title, and some observers felt he could have beaten the count against Holyfield.

"He could have gotten up. He chose not to. Maybe he was his own reasons," said Eddie Futch, who trained the likes of Joe Frazier and Larry Holmes and also trained a winner on the undercard Thursday night — Riddick Bowe.

Douglas claimed he could not get up in time.

"He caught me with a good shot. By the time I tried to pick up the count, it was over," he said. "If I could have gotten up, I would have."

Kasparov favoured after sloppy title chess draw

NEW YORK (R) A quarter of the way into a 24-game title chess duel, experts predict Garry Kasparov's crown is reasonably safe from challenger Anatoly Karpov, but the king of world chess is still far from declaring a final check-mate.

In the end, Karpov's fear may prove to be Kasparov's greatest asset in a contest marked by mutual loathing.

Despite ranking as the greatest player of all time, Kasparov only holds a one-point lead after a fluctuating struggle in the sixth game ended Thursday in a draw.

This illustrates the closeness of their rivalry and Karpov's stature as a player. He was world champion for 10 years before being toppled by Kasparov.

Chess experts say they detected a crippling sense of fear in the way Karpov played the sixth game.

U.S. Grandmaster Yasser Seirawan interpreted the latest game bleakly for the challenger.

"It was a terrible game from the psychological point of view. Karpov emerged with a very good position and then played almost like he was afraid," he said.

To complicate matters, a 12-2 tie leaves the championship in Kasparov's hands.

Kasparov and Karpov are notorious for their total conflict both on and off the board.

Once the match has begun, gentlemanly behaviour rules — behaviour that Kasparov has labelled an act, adopted purely for the sake of decorum.

Their hatred is now solely expressed in the abstract manoeuvring taking place of on the chess-board and the subtle language of twitch and grimace playing their faces.

The feverish intensity of the early games has proved impossible for the rivals to maintain. The fifth and sixth games have disappointed observers, who feel that errors and fatigue are already creeping in.

3 Europeans favoured in Breeders' Cup races

NEW YORK (R) — Not since the English governor of New York raised the curtain on American horse racing in 1665 by laying out a track at Belmont Park has the European influence been so strongly felt in U.S. racing as it will be Saturday.

Three European horses are fabled to win and pick up part of the \$10 million on offer in the seven races of the Breeders' Cup — the richest day of racing in the world which winds up the U.S. season.

Of the 91 horses running this year at Belmont, near where the governor built his course, 22 were either bred in Europe or have done most of their racing there.

Saumarez, the British-bred winner of the Prix l'Arc de Triomphe, is the choice to win the \$2-million Breeders' Cup Turf over a mile and a half.

Dayjur, Europe's fastest sprinter who has won at Ascot, Haydock and Longchamp, is favoured in the \$1-million Breeders' Cup Sprint at six furlongs.

Steinlen, bred at the Allez France Stables in England and owned by Paris art dealer Daniel Wildenstein, is the top selection in the \$1-million Breeders' Cup Mile.

In the day's richest event, the \$3-million Breeders' Cup Classic over a mile-and-a-quarter, Go and Go, the Irish-bred winner of the Belmont Stakes, is third favourite in a wide-open race.

However, of the 68 foreign-bred horses who have run in the first six years of Breeders' racing, only six have won.

"You have the flight, the quarantine and the new racing surface. Given all that, the foreign horses have to be at 110 per cent to win," said Alastair Dillon of the International Racing Bureau.

Dayjur, the Kentucky-bred European sensation, is favourite

in London at 6-4 and at Belmont at 7-2 because of a record of six wins in eight starts and an English record of 56 seconds over five furlongs.

At the Breeders' he runs on dirt and around a turn for the first time in a race never won by a European. His trainer, Major Dick Hern, is realistic, while his jockey, Willie Carson, is downright sceptical.

"It's like going into the unknown," Hern said. "I have no decisions. He's the best sprinter in Europe without question. But he is trying something quite new here."

Carson said: "They won't see a champion on there, will they? That's because he's not used to what he'll have to do."

Steinlen, the seven-year-old trained by 10-time Breeders' Cup winner D. Wayne Lukas, has spent his entire career in the United States, earning \$3.2 million with 20 victories in 42 starts, including last year's mile.

But, after a sixth place finish on Oct. 6 in the Jockey Club Gold Cup, Steinlen appears vulnerable with four European entries ready to challenge in a race which foreigners have won three times and Milesque, who ran mostly in Europe, took twice.

Royal Academy will be the sentimental choice of some because of his jockey, 54-year-old Lester Piggott, the 11-time English champion who came out of retirement this month. He has raced in the Breeders' Cup only once before, finishing 11th in 1985.

Nicolas Clement, the trainer of Saumarez, said the Arc champion was fit after a two-furlong workout over the Belmont Track Wednesday in preparation for his bid to become the first winner of the Arc and the Breeders' Cup Turf.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY OCTOBER 27, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Pleasant aspects are in effect and you can gain most anything you desire with a new attitude and an element of charm. Bad debts continue to put a damper on your progress.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Do what pleases your mind during the morning hours, then in the afternoon look into some new interests and tonight avoid a condition from the past.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Enjoy an associate who is cheerful in the morning, after noon then quietly look into new ways to be successful; tonight avoid any dull duties.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Look into some writings that can be helpful to you in the future; then you can enjoy an event with a very active friend.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) In the morning arrange recreations for the days ahead; then after lunch get out and do something civic; while tonight don't discuss an old attachment.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Attend to whatever awaits your attention at home in the morning; then seek new outlets of expression for the future; tonight avoid a good time.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get messages off that have been delayed in the morning, then you can go along to some source with your attachment for a pleasant time.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Spend some time after breakfast considering your present financial position; then make an acquaintance of a business pioneer.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Concentrate upon your own intimate aims during the morning hours; then you see ways to increase your business activities more sensibly.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Consider the best means by which to gain a secret ambition early; then look into some new ways to express your own big ideas.

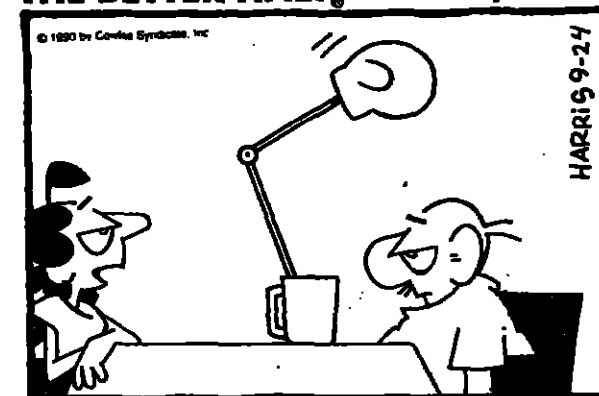
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Meet with a friend who understands how to help you operate better; then do what will please your family very much to your benefit.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Contact one of influence who can support your public aims; then think up new ways to have more future wellbeing in the thing you do.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be alert to news in periodicals that can be helpful to you; then spend the afternoon thinking up new ways to increase your income.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"It's a new kind of coffee cup — it wakes up decaf drinkers."

JUMBLE.

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NUMOR

BEREL

SMABAL

LEUXED



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "HALVE"

Yesterday's Jumbles: CURVE BELLE VOYAGE SHADOW
Answer: What a filibustering politician should do — "HALVE" HIS SAY

ATP Tour fines Edberg, Lendl, Agassi and McEnroe

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Stefan Edberg played only one match Thursday, but he was both a winner and a loser.

The world's top-ranked tennis player lost at least \$115,496. That's the record fine he was assessed by the ATP tour for failing to play the required number of tournaments this year.

"It's not fair and I'll certainly appeal," Edberg said after beating Marc Rosset of Switzerland 6-4, 6-4 in the third round of the Stockholm Open.

The Swede, who has never been fined before, says he'll probably have to pay the money. But he had a good reason for skipping two tournaments in February.

"Everyone knows I was injured in the Australian Open," said Edberg, who defaulted the final against Ivan Lendl in January with a stomach injury.

Lendl, ranked third in the world, also was fined, as was No. 5 Andre Agassi.

Lendl, the biggest money winner in tennis history, was fined a minimum of \$95,443. Agassi, who was an upset victim in the second round Wednesday, will be fined at least \$5,042.

The ATP tour, which runs the men's circuit this year, said the fines would increase proportionally to include any income the players might earn during the remainder of the year.

Edberg plays Brad Gilbert in the quarterfinals of the Stockholm Open. If he wins the title here, Edberg would receive almost \$140,000, more than enough to cover the fine, the

biggest in tennis history.

Edberg and Agassi were required to play in 11 tournaments this year and Lendl one less because he is a 10-year veteran of the tour.

"This is more than a financial penalty. I see this as an expression of commitment to play the ATP Tour World Championship," ATP Tour reportedly threatened to ban Edberg from its season-ending championship should he refuse to pay the fine, the Swedish News Agency (TT) said.

That could mean that Edberg would be dethroned as the world's top-ranked player.

Boris Becker, who is chasing Edberg for the No. 1 ranking, could move atop the list for the first time in his career.

Edberg and Becker are seeded to meet in the Stockholm Open final at the Globe Arena Sunday. But Becker had a tough task Friday.

The 1988 Stockholm Open champion, whom Edberg says is the finest indoor player in the world, met Goran Ivanisevic in a quarterfinal battle between two big servers. The two have split their two meetings this year, Becker losing to the Yugoslavian in the first round at the French Open, then winning in the Wimbledon semifinals.

Ivanisevic broke serve once in each set to defeat John McEnroe 6-4, 6-4 in the third round Thursday.

The New Yorker is the only four-time Stockholm Open champion, winning consecutive titles in 1978-79 and 1984-85. He lost the 1980 final to Bjorn Borg.

Ferrari urges crackdown on dangerous driving

MARANELLO, Italy (R) — Ferrari President Piero Fursaro Thursday called for a crackdown on Formula One drivers who "believe that crashes are now an acceptable tactic."

In a letter to Jean-Marie Balestre, president of FISA, motor racing's world governing body, Fursaro said the credibility of Formula One racing had been undermined by the way the last two drivers' championships had been decided.

But he stopped short of threatening to withdraw from Formula One.

Ferrari were the losers in Sunday's crash between Brazilian Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost

of France in the opening lap of the Japanese Grand Prix.

Prost's Ferrari and Senna's McLaren collided at the first bend, forcing both drivers to retire and ending Prost's chances of retaining his world title.

Senna became champion for the second time but Prost later accused him of deliberately provoking the crash by going for a gap which did not exist because he knew the Ferrari was a superior car. Senna hotly denied the charge.

The 1989 world championship also ended in controversy in Japan when the same two drivers crashed into each other, resulting in the title going to Prost.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH
1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQJ4 ♠A83 ♠K105 ♠1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
What action do you take?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQ85 ♠KQ6 ♠93 ♠AJ104
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQ65 ♠A106 ♠95 ♠Q1063
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠J109753 ♠A ♠Q7 ♠AK98
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
?
What action do you take?

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠64 ♠AK83 ♠A10984 ♠93
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
?
What action do you take?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q5 ♠K106 ♠AQ98 ♠J854
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ DBL Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



40 Workers 52 Merry
45 Sayings 54 Mend
47 Foes 55 Writer Ephron
48 Magnetism or 56 Knowledge
49 Actress Edle 57 "Cool"
50 Misrepresent 58 Hand
51 Humiliate 59 Formerly once

Czech parliament approves privatisation

PRAGUE (AP) — Parliament Thursday overwhelmingly approved a law to turn over to private hands about 100,000 small shops and enterprises nationalised in 40 years of communism.

The law was approved by 202 of the 239 deputies present and voting, the state CTK news agency reported.

The privatisation process is a key part of reforms aimed at transforming Czechoslovakia's centralised economy into a Western-style one guided by market mechanisms.

Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus, who presented the draft to the legislature Wednesday, said it marked a compromise "which cannot satisfy all completely."

The law on the so-called "small privatisation" will apply to some 100,000 shops and small enterprises with an overall value of approximately 200 billion crowns (\$83.3 million), equivalent to nearly half the nation's annual budget.

Thousands of vendors across the country staged symbolic strikes last month demanding they be given first crack at buying the shops and a chance to pay for up to half the price in install-

Gulf crisis, Comecon said to cost East Europe \$15 b

PRAGUE (R) — Higher oil prices due to the Gulf crisis and changes in trade in the former Soviet Bloc will cost the reforming nations of Eastern Europe \$15 billion a year, a senior World Bank official has said.

That's large. It's almost five per cent of the gross domestic product of these economies," Willi Wapenhans, World Bank vice-president for Europe, Middle East and Africa told a news conference.

The disintegration of the Soviet-led trade bloc Comecon, in which Moscow previously provided its satellites with cheap energy and raw materials in exchange for low quality manufactured goods, would cost Eastern Europe \$7-\$8 billion a year, he said.

If oil averages \$25 a barrel over a 12-month period as a result of Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, the costs for Eastern Europe would be the same again.

The World Bank, and its sister organisation the International Monetary Fund (IMF), would not allow the reform process in Eastern Europe to be derailed by this

Jordan checks illegal currency trade, monitors foreign exchange outflow

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Faced with a new boom in illegal dealings in foreign currency in the wake of the uncertainty and fears of war in the Gulf, the Jordanian authorities have launched a fresh crackdown on black market dealers in a move aimed at checking the outflow of foreign exchange in the country.

The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) used to tolerate the black market in foreign currency since the volume involved was not significant to have any major impact on the country's monetary situation," said a senior official. "But the picture changed in the wake of the Gulf crisis when the public panicked and rushed to buy foreign currency and the difference between the official and black market rates widened and breached the accepted level of 10 per cent," he explained.

A security source said "a few arrests" of unlicensed foreign currency dealers were made during the past 10 days.

Some people are sceptical of the fresh crackdown. "The push appears to focus on small-time dealers who make a few dinars out of the foreigners and tourists who visit the souq downtown," said a businessman. "The largest amount one of them might handle a day is probably not more than a hundred dollars," he added. "What about those who deal in the thousands, sitting in their plush offices in Shmeisani and Jabal Amman?" he asked.

Several banking experts said they doubted whether any significant amount in foreign currency in cash has left the country in the wake of the Gulf crisis. "In my opinion, the bulk of those who rushed and bought foreign currency in the first few weeks (of the Gulf crisis) has not really transferred their money outside the country," said an official at one of Jordan's leading commercial banks. "They appear to be hanging on to their cash right here in the country for whatever reason."

Prior to the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2, the difference between the rates set by the CBJ and on the black market was less than three per cent, with the

Gulf crisis stuns Philippine progress

MANILA (R) — President Corason Aquino said Friday that the Gulf crisis had stunted economic progress in the Philippines, and urged Filipinos to prepare for more sacrifices in the months ahead.

"The Gulf crisis is bearing down on all sectors of our economy, stunting the progress that was being accomplished," Aquino said in a speech to construction industry executives.

The crisis has cost the Philippines between \$1.5 billion and \$2.3 billion in increased fuel charges and the government is having trouble finding foreign ex-

Marin urges EC to write off Third World debt

STRASBOURG, France (R) — EC Development Commissioner Manuel Marin urged the European Community (EC) Thursday to write off debts of \$2 billion owed to it by 68 Third World countries.

Marin told the European Parliament he would soon make a formal proposal to EC ministers to forgive debts of 1.5 billion European Currency Units (\$2 billion) owed by the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) developing nations.

Community sources said the EC's executive commission was likely to back Marin's initiative, which would then be discussed by

EC budget faces possible crisis

STRASBOURG, France (AP) — The European Parliament Thursday set the stage for a possible budget crisis in the European Community (EC) by demanding a supplemental fund to pay for German unification.

The parliament passed a resolution threatening to "prevent the adoption of the 1991 budget" if the 12 EC governments insisted on paying the costs of helping eastern Germany out of money set aside for the main Community budget.

In its budget proposal, the parliament approved a \$73.9 billion (\$4.4 European Currency Unit) spending plan, excluding the costs of unification.

The parliament's budget, approved by a vote of 262-12, called for a spending increase of \$2.7 billion over a budget proposal submitted by the EC council, which includes representatives of the 12 governments.

The EC's 518-seat assembly voted to boost council proposals for spending in several areas, including the environment, aid for the Third World, and social, educational and agricultural projects within the Community.

In one of the largest increases over the council proposal, the parliament earmarked \$79.9 million to help East European and other countries economically damaged by the Gulf crisis.

The parliament also approved \$47.6 million to enable the Community to fund regional environmental protection programmes.

The parliament's budget calls for an 11 per cent increase over this year's EC budget of \$66.2 billion.

During debate, members of parliament spoke repeatedly of the need to help the newly merged parts of Germany adjust to EC economic and environmental standards.

But they insisted that there would not be enough money for other vital EC projects if the money came out of the main budget, which is limited by agreement among EC institutions.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES					
Thursday, October 25, 1990					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	652.0	656.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	513.5	516.6
Pound Sterling	1278.2	1285.9	Dutch guilder	384.1	386.4
Deutschemark	432.8	435.4	Swedish crown	116.7	117.4
Swiss franc	513.8	516.9	Italian lira (for 100)	57.9	58.2
French franc	129.3	130.1	Belgian franc (for 10)	210.4	211.7

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.9555/65	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1670/80	Canadian dollar
	1.5170/75	Deutsche marks
	1.7090/7100	Dutch guilders
	1.2820/25	Swiss francs
	31.22/27	Belgian francs
	5.0725/75	French francs
	1135/1136	Italian lire
	128.15/20	Japanese yen
	5.6250/6300	Swedish crowns
	5.8940/90	Norwegian crowns
	5.7950/8000	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	376.60/377.10	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS			
TOKYO — Tokyo stocks closed lower as higher oil prices spread bearish sentiment through the market. Profit-taking and position-squaring before the weekend pushed prices down. The Nikkei closed down 346.99 points or 1.37 per cent to 25,005.64.			
SYDNEY — Higher oil prices and weaker overseas bourses dragged the market down with major industrials heavily sold. The All Ordinaries closed 20.5 points down at 1,354.8.			
SINGAPORE — Prices closed lower on bargain hunting. The Straits Times plunged 34.55 points to end at 1,174.99.			
BOMBAY — Shares ended mixed as nervousness gripped the market ahead of a plan by Hindus to build a temple on a site occupied by a mosque in Ayodhya. The Bombay Stock Exchange index fell 29.71 points to 1,269.46.			
FRANKFURT — Shares dropped 2.7 per cent as worries about tensions in the Middle East and a jump in oil prices added momentum to a downward technical movement. The DAX index ended 40.53 points down at the day's low of 1,457.05.			
ZURICH — Swiss shares ended sharply lower amid fears of war in the Middle East and rising oil prices. The all-share SPI index closed 16.6 down at 938.1.			
LONDON — U.K. shares ended sharply lower depressed by high oil prices and an easier Wall Street. The FTSE was down 25.6 at 2063.1.			
PARIS — French share prices were sharply down as investors, uneasy over increasing Gulf tensions and higher oil prices, sold off ahead of the weekend. The CAC-40 index fell 27.41 to 1,618.58.			
NEW YORK — U.S. stocks were trading in a narrow range at sharply lower levels in early afternoon. The Dow was down about 23 to 2461.			

Japan to maintain aid to Latin America despite crisis in Gulf

TOKYO (R) — Japan will maintain its level of economic aid to Latin America despite new commitments in the Gulf and a reluctance to make foreign loans among private Japanese banks, government officials say.

"The government plans to keep channelling about 10 per cent of its bilateral official development assistance (ODA) to Latin America," said Koichi Ito, an official at the foreign ministry's aid policy division.

Japan's bilateral ODA to Latin America was \$563 million in 1989, or a 8.3 per cent of Tokyo's total bilateral ODA, compared with \$399 million, or 6.2 per cent of the total, in 1988.

Many developing countries are worried that the Gulf crisis will divert large amounts of foreign aid away from them and towards the Middle East. Japan has pledged \$2 billion in aid to Egypt, Jordan and Turkey since the crisis began.

At the same time, official aid has become even more vital for Latin America because funds from private Japanese banks have all but dried up, economists and bankers say.

The slump in Tokyo stock prices this year has made private Japanese banks extremely wary about lending to Latin America and other developing regions. Many banks are still smarting from losses on previous Third World loans.

"No Japanese banks are currently able to make fresh loans to Latin America," said an official at one Japanese long-term credit bank.

TODAY AT

Cinema CONCORD Tel: 677420

1) COCKTAIL Show: 5:15 only

2) SOUR GRAPES Show: 3:30 - 6:45 - 8:45

Cinema NJJOM Tel: 675571

THE UNTAMED

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema RAINBOW Tel: 625155

Izzat Al Alaili & Yahia Al Fakhrani in

THE EXECUTION OF A JUDGE (Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema PHILADELPHIA Tel: 634144

Mahmoud Yassin & Busi in

LICENCE TO KILL (Arabic)

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Cinema PLAZA Tel: 699238

Ahmad Zaki and Raghdah in

KABORIA

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30

WANTED

An international company requires two experienced specialists in the operation of major plant rooms and boiler houses. Experience must be documented and proven.

Please contact phone: 822474-5-6

Aqaba Inn

Furnished Tourist Flats

Two bedrooms, lounge, living room, kitchen. Idyllic sea views. Rent: Daily, weekly and monthly.

Call Aqaba tel. 03/313512, fax: 03/314339

FOR RENT

MODERN FURNISHED APARTMENTS

Two apartments of two bedrooms - living - dining rooms K&B. Two studios of one bedroom. K&B. Telephones & C.H. Location: Jabal Amman bet. 3rd & 4th Circles. Tel. 641443 - 642351

CAR FOR SALE

1988 Mazda 626 GLX, 24,000 k.m.

S. Price. (13,000 JD)
Tel. 828714 or 08/533366

COMPUTER SYSTEMS SPECIALISTS — MVS/ESA

A major financial corporation, to be located in Amman, requires experienced systems specialists. Emphasis is placed on the ability to integrate into the existing teams, provide courses, training and on-the-job support while assisting us in reaching our targets.

Jordanian nationals, with good command of written and spoken English will be preferred. We require specialists with the following:

- CICS/VS Systems Programmer
- CICS/DB2 Applications Specialist
- FBSS/OS2 Applications Specialist
- VTAM/SNA Systems Programmer

Permanent and contract positions are available. Please forward C.V., stating salary requirement and terms, and no later than Nov. 1, 1990, to:

Systems Selection, P.O. Box 930102, Amman

The British Council

is looking for native speakers of English with a long-term commitment to Jordan to train as teachers of English as a Foreign Language.

Those interested call Raghdah Azizieh or Ekhliss Rale on 636147/8.

Bhutto opts for provincial polls after national election defeat

KARACHI (Agencies) — Sacked Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) would contest provincial elections Saturday despite its crushing defeat in a national vote it charged was rigged.

"There is to be no boycott of the provincial elections," she told a news conference in the Sind province capital Karachi Thursday.

"There was a lot of pressure from my partymen to boycott the provincial elections. I have persuaded them not to boycott them."

Wiping away tears, Bhutto said the PPP was a party of struggle and should contest the local elections. "If the elections are rigged, the government will be further exposed," she said.

The Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA), one of whose leaders heads the caretaker government that replaced Bhutto's, emerged as big winner in Wednesday's elections with 105 of the 217-seat National Assem-

bly (lower house).

The PPP won only 45 seats, less than half of the 93 it captured in 1988 elections that made Bhutto the Muslim World's first elected woman prime minister.

Bhutto said cheating by the caretaker government had denied the PPP 70 to 80 seats in the latest polls.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dismissed Bhutto's 20-month government on Aug. 6 for alleged corruption and abuse of power. He dissolved the National Assembly and four provincial assemblies and ordered fresh elections.

Bhutto denied the charges, but she and several colleagues were put on trial by special one-judge tribunals empowered to disqualify them from parliament and jail them for up to seven years.

At a news conference Thursday Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi denied the elections had been rigged and called on Bhutto to accept the result.

Jatoi said the PPP trials would

continue and that the special courts would decide the cases on merit.

"Certainly justice will be done in each individual case," he said. Nawaz Sharif, IDA chief and a contender for the premiership, also denied the polling had been unfair and added that he had not anticipated such a "complete mandate."

The IDA lacks a majority but its spokesman said it was in a comfortable position to form a government.

Bhutto said ballot boxes had been snatched or stuffed and that polling agents had been arrested.

"Today we do not have a people's parliament. Today we have president's parliament..." Bhutto said.

She asked all of the PPP's defeated candidates to challenge the poll results through election petitions.

"The fact is that they rigged so heavily because they want to have a constitutional dictatorship," Bhutto said. "Pakistan is going

towards a political polarisation."

An international observer team sent to Pakistan to watch the country's national elections said Friday it found no evidence to back claims by Bhutto of widespread rigging.

"As of today, the delegation has received no evidence that would allow us to substantiate allegations concerning irregular vote totals," team leader Vahit Halefoglu told a news conference.

"The elections, as we observed them at the local level, were generally open, orderly and well administered," said Halefoglu, a former Turkish foreign minister.

"The procedures used for the balloting processes were in accordance with the applicable election law."

The 40-member observer team was organised by the Washington-based National Democratic Institute but included people of various nationalities. It also gave a clean bill of health to previous elections in 1988.

9 killed in new South African unrest

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Police opened fire to break up protests and black factions clashed in several towns, leaving nine blacks dead and scores wounded, police said Friday.

Five blacks were killed Thursday night with riot police in Khayelitsha township outside Cape Town after police broke up a march with shotgun fire, police said. It was not clear how many died from police bullets.

Clashes continued Thursday night, with police shooting at youths who erected barricades to block streets. At least 50 shops were burned, but no other casualties were immediately reported.

Residents said the area remained tense Friday and that heavily armed police units roamed the township.

The Independent South African Press Association and several newspapers reported seven people had been killed in the clashes. Police denied the reports.

A police statement Friday said four people were killed in black factional fighting in Natal province during the previous 24 hours.

A group of black with rifles attacked a house at Ntuzama, killing two men and wounding a woman, the statement said. Two black men were killed at Mnjama, but police gave no details.

Police did not elaborate on the factional fighting. More than 5,000 blacks have been killed since 1986 in fighting between supporters of the African National Congress and the conservative Inkatha Movement.

Three blacks were hurt late Thursday in Pretoria when passengers jumped out of a moving train after men with whips attacked people, police said.

Police said the attackers were trying to enforce a work boycott. They said they had no details of the boycott.

Revolt brews against Singh to delay elections

NEW DELHI (R) — India's political horse-trading intensified Friday with a rebellion brewing against Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh in hopes of delaying elections he plans to call soon, political sources said.

Almost constant violence in the past five weeks over caste and religious rows has prompted politicians from most parties to say privately the last thing they want now is elections.

Last November's poll, in which Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party lost its majority for only the second time since India's independence from Britain in 1947, was the country's bloodiest.

Senior members of Singh's Janata Dal say he plans to call new elections by the end of the year whether he wins or loses a Nov. 7 vote of confidence forced on him by the desertion of the Hindu-revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Encouraged by Congress, maverick socialist Chandra Shekhar was trying to whip up enough support within the Janata Dal to topple Singh, the sources said.

Chandra Shekhar, who has growled and grumbled on the sidelines throughout Singh's 11-month tenure, thinks he has a good chance of success and of achieving a burning ambition to become prime minister, the sources said.

He was given a sharp boost Thursday by a Congress announcement that it would oppose Janata Dal in the vote of confidence — unless Singh was deposed as leader.

Congress spokesman V.N. Gadgil said his party would offer constructive support "to a Singh successor. A senior Congress official told Reuters that was an invitation for dissidents to rally around Chandra Shekhar."

"There are a lot of people in Janata Dal scared the prime minister will call elections. They are running away from him and our open invitation is finding takers," he said.

Chandra Shekhar has tried in vain to topple Singh before and Singh supporters predicted he would fail again.

"Chandra Shekhar is just up to what he has been up to since the beginning. It's a hare-brained scheme that is not viable," said one senior Janata Dal official.

The official said Singh's plans remained unaltered.

"We are proceeding on the premise that we will lose on the floor on an issue of principle. Then we will have elections."

Singh plans to ask for a vote of confidence in his policy of preventing Hindu fundamentalists from building a temple where a mosque stands in the northern town of Ayodhya and on his plan to reserve more government jobs to lower-caste Hindus.

Both issues have prompted widespread violence. The arrest of BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani to halt his march to Ayodhya, where he planned to start building the temple on Oct. 30, led to more violence.

At least 70 people had died in Hindu-Muslim rioting since Advani's arrest Tuesday, which prompted the BJP to withdraw support from Singh's government.

Charles goes back to work

LONDON (R) — Britain's Prince Charles, forced to take a four-month break from official duties to recover from a broken arm, is now fit enough to go back to work. Buckingham Palace said he would resume his royal engagements at the end of the month with a visit to a London Health Centre. The 41-year-old heir to the throne broke his right arm in a fall from his polo pony in June. He underwent a bone graft operation last month after the injury failed to heal. The prince and his wife, Diana, will travel to Japan to attend the official enthronement of Emperor Akihito on Nov. 12, a palace spokeswoman said.

Thatcher to make absent fathers pay up

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has vowed that a new law will force British fathers who quit the family home to pay up for the welfare of their children. "Sometimes fathers may walk out on their families. They must not be allowed to walk out on their financial responsibilities," Thatcher told parliament. One in three British marriages ends in divorce. Thatcher was asked by a fellow woman legislator, Maureen Hicks, for assurances that she will implement proposals in a white paper (policy document) for the state to take duty to half an absent parent's disposable income as child maintenance. Hicks said it was an "absolute disgrace that seven out of 10 absent parents, usually fathers, make no contribution to their children whatsoever." Thatcher, a mother of two, replied: "We shall not water down that white paper."

Rod Stewart to wed model

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — Rocker Rod Stewart is to marry a 21-year-old New Zealand model in December, the woman's parents and agent said Wednesday. Rachel Hunter, who appears on the cover of this month's Australian Vogue magazine, and the 45-year-old Stewart will have an "old-fashioned church wedding" in Los Angeles on Dec. 15, said Hunter's mother, Janine Phillips of Auckland. She said the wedding will be followed by a reception at Stewart's mansion in the Bel Air district of Los Angeles. Sally Marsh, Hunter's agent in Sydney, Australia, confirmed the wedding plans. Hunter met Stewart two months ago. In New Zealand, she is best known as the "trumpet ice cream girl" after appearing in a series of ads for the company. Stewart, who has enjoyed a successful career both as a member of the band The Faces and as a solo performer, has among his hit songs "Maggie May," in the 1960s and more recently "Sailing" and "If You Think I'm Sexy." He dated actress Joanna Lumley, model Dee Hamilton and Britt Ekland before marrying Alana Hamilton in 1979. The couple had two children, Sean, 9, and Kimberley, 10, before they separated in 1983 and later divorced. Stewart separated from model Kelly Emberg, with whom he has a three-year-old daughter, shortly before meeting Hunter.

'Sex slave' wins \$4m damages

NEW YORK (R) — A former Penthouse "pet of the year" was awarded \$4.06 million against Penthouse International and its publisher, Robert Guccione, Tuesday after a judge ruled she was used as a "sex slave." In a 20-page decision, New York Supreme Court Justice Elliott Wilk found that Marjorie Lee Thoreson had proved sexual harassment against the millionaire publisher. The former model, 37, claimed that she would have lost her job with Penthouse unless she performed explicit sexual acts for a film Guccione made and have affairs with people he ordered her to have sex with, including a Penthouse financial adviser. In awarding \$4 million punitive damages under the state's human rights law, Wilk said Guccione had a net worth of \$150 million. Wilk said a large amount was necessary because "only a substantial award will have the effect of punishing the defendant." Thoreson, who worked with Penthouse from 1973 until 1980 under the name of Annela di Lorenzo, had the affair with the financial adviser under Guccione's orders and direction because he wanted the adviser to move to the United States from London, the court hearing was told.

IRA 'human bomb' worked for Defence Ministry

BELFAST (Agencies) — Police Friday identified a man killed when he was turned into a "human bomb" by the IRA as a 42-year-old handyman who worked for the Defence Ministry.

Patrick Gillespie was killed Wednesday when IRA gunmen held his family hostage and forced him to drive a 1,000 pound (454 kilo) bomb into a military checkpoint near Londonderry, Northern Ireland's second city. Five soldiers also died in the blast.

A simultaneous bombing by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) at Newry, 100 miles (160 kilometres) southeast of Londonderry, killed a sixth soldier. A

man forced to drive the bomb-laden car in that attack escaped with a broken leg.

Thirty-five people were injured in the two attacks.

The IRA said the drivers used in the attacks were "collaborators" who had done construction work for the security forces.

In new violence Friday, a railway line between Newry and Dundalk in Northern Ireland was closed after reports of an explosion, police said.

In another development, British police said Friday that all but one of an undisclosed number of people being questioned about suspected IRA attacks in Central

England have been released without charge.

The IRA is fighting British rule in Northern Ireland and wants to unite it with the Republic of Ireland. The guerrilla organisation is banned on both sides of the border.

Meanwhile the IRA "human bomb" victim, tied into his car with 200 pounds (90 kg) of explosives behind him, is so shattered by his terrifying ordeal that he wants to leave Northern Ireland forever.

Gerry Kelly, beads of sweat pouring down his face, was forced by IRA guerrillas to drive his bomb-laden van into an army

camp Wednesday. Miraculously, he managed to wriggle free and the bomb failed to detonate.

"It was a ghastly ordeal and frankly I don't think I'll ever get over it. I am now thinking of quitting Ireland completely," he told reporters after staring death in the face.

Kelly, drained by the ordeal that nearly took his life, said: "I might never work again and we may now have to emigrate. We don't know where to go, maybe America. I just don't know."

"My wife is in a dreadful state. She wants to get away completely from here because home isn't home any more — certainly not after this."

Astronomers: Largest galaxy is 60 times size of Milky Way

WASHINGTON (AP) — A concentration of stars that stretches for 6 million light years — more than 60 times the size of the Milky Way — is the largest galaxy ever discovered, astronomers say in the journal Science.

The study, published Friday, said the Central Galaxy in a distant cluster of galaxies called Abell 2029 has more than 100 trillion stars. The Milky Way, which includes the sun and its solar system, has about 3 billion stars.

Jeffrey R. Kuhn, a Michigan State University astronomer who co-authored the study, said the Abell 2029 Central Galaxy "is the largest single galaxy that has been resolved."

"If we talk about the galaxy and the Halo (diffused light around the galaxy) as a single entity, then it is the largest object that we are aware of," he said.

Kuhn and his co-investigators determined the size of the galaxy using a series of observations from the Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona.

3 killed as Philippine strike called off

MANILA (R) — Three people were killed in a gunbattle between Communist rebels and security forces on the outskirts of Manila Friday, taking the death toll to 10 in three days of Philippine labour unrest.

The shoot-out in the district of Pila erupted as police prevented the rebels, backing a labour campaign for more pay and lower fuel prices, from setting fire to a bus.

Leftwing unions have called off strikes which began Wednesday and crippled government and business operations in several cities.

A policeman who got on the bus in Pila to check passengers was shot dead by one of four suspected New People's Army rebels on board.

Police said the guerrillas were carrying petrol and had planned to set the bus on fire.

Soldiers at a checkpoint exchanged shots with the gunmen inside the bus. Two rebels were killed but the other two escaped.

In Manila, labour leaders said they would resume strikes next month to press demands for lower fuel prices and a 38-peso (\$1.50) rise in the daily wage rate of 89 pesos (\$3.55).

Thirty-four of the more than 70 people arrested since the strike began have been charged with illegal assembly, incitement to sedition and other offences, armed forces spokesman Brigadier-General Emiliano Templo said in a radio interview.

A total of 24 vehicles were

burned and destroyed by the rebels, he said.

President Corazon Aquino's government has threatened to ban the May One Movement (KMU) which organised the strike.

The military has accused the KMU of being a Communist front. The trade union denied the charge and accused the government of witch-hunting.

KMU Chairman Crispin Beltran, in hiding since the strike, issued a statement denouncing the government.

"As a legitimate labour centre, we condemn even as we deny their repeated malicious assertion that the KMU is a Communist front which aims to topple the Aquino regime."

Soviet republics, smaller regions splitting away from Moscow

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Kazakh Republic has declared sovereignty from the Soviet government and factional fighting is threatening to break out in Moldova, accelerating the country's political fragmentation.

As its first act of defiance, the Kazakh legislature Thursday banned nuclear explosions anywhere in the republic, including Semipalatinsk, one of the Soviet Union's main sites for testing warheads.

A second series of photos from Kitt Peak confirmed the findings.

Kuhn said the Abell 2029 cluster of galaxies is about a billion light years away and includes about a thousand galaxies, each with billions of stars.

"If you were to look up into the sky and could see this cluster, they would occupy an area a little smaller than the moon," he said.

"Of course, they are much fainter than the eye can see."

A light year is 5.89 trillion miles (9.42 trillion kilometres), the distance that light can travel in one year in a vacuum.

The very large galaxy, classified by astronomers as a CD (for Central Dominant), emits more than a quarter of all the light radiated by the entire cluster.

Kuhn said the group determined there was little stellar matter between the CD galaxy and others in the Abell 2029 cluster. This suggests, he said, that the CD galaxy and the cluster itself formed about the same time.

Richard Mushotzky, an astronomer at the Goddard Space Centre in Maryland, said that just how galaxies and clusters form in space is one of the underlying mysteries in astronomy.

The Abell 2029 study, he said, could be significant if its conclusions can be proved by other observations.

Albania shocked by writer's defection

TIRANA, Albania (AP) — The defection of Albania's leading writer embarrassed the rulers of this isolated Communist state as they hosted a meeting to expand their ties with the rest of Europe.

Ismael Kadare, probably Albania's best-known public figure after President Ramiz Alia, announced his defection Thursday during a visit to France with his wife and two daughters.

France granted him asylum hours later.

Albania was hosting its first high-level international conference in decades, a meeting of the foreign ministers of the other Balkan nations — Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, Romania and Yugoslavia.

Albania, the last hard-line Stalinist state in Europe, hopes to use the influence of the Balkan nations to gain entrance in the Conference on Security and

Cooperation of Europe (CSCE), before the body holds its annual summit in Paris next month.

The foreign ministers, in a statement, said they "welcomed the request of Albania for full participation in the CSCE, and expressed their wish to see it realised."

But Greece insisted that Albania first improve human rights conditions.

Meanwhile President F.W. de Klerk returned Friday from a four-day tour of Europe and Africa, confident the rest of the world is accepting his message of apartheid reform.

De Klerk told a news conference after arriving at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts Airport that he has encountered nothing but a mood of realism in the 25 countries he has visited.

The door making this possible has just been opened, thanks to the student movement," he said.

Leaders say the four-day congress will vote on changing Rukh's programme — from reform within the Soviet Union to outright independence for the second republic. It will also seek to unite all nationalist forces.

The congress is being held at a time of unprecedented nationalist passions in the Ukraine, where politics have grown increasingly radical since hardline party chief Vladimir Shchedybistky was forced from office last year after 17 years in power.

Thousands of students marched last week through Kiev for three days and staged hunger strikes to demand multi-party elections and to protest against government economic policies.

The students, who set up a tent city in the centre of the city, called off the protests after the Communist-dominated parliament agreed to virtually all their demands.

Their victory is seen by nationalist groups as the first step towards independence from Moscow.

rebel Soviet republics was a "test of wills" that goes far beyond what Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev expected when he unleashed his perestroika reform programme.

Addressing the National Council of World Affairs Organisation, Webster acknowledged serious food shortages in the Soviet Union but said: "They do not have a famine."

"I worry that the nationalist forces that seem to have come unleashed... will be just as troublesome in the Soviet Union as we're finding in Yugoslavia and other parts of Eastern Europe, and indeed in other parts of the world," he said.

In Yugoslavia, for instance, Webster said the failure to reach a compromise on a political structure is threatening the federation.

One can ask whether there is a threat in the struggle... dangerous organisations might get control over those instruments of long-range destruction, strategic weapons. Presently that seems very unlikely," Webster said.

"The Soviets worry about that problem more than we do, at least as much as we do, and their structure of control and command, the methods of arming and firing these weapons, have been tightly controlled on a centralised basis," he said.

But he said if the Soviet Union as a tight confederation should disintegrate, "Then we would have to see who are the people moving to take control over those particular weapons, and that would be of considerable national security interest to our country."

Ukrainian group to push for full independence

Meanwhile the leading nationalist group in the Ukraine, gathering Thursday for its national congress, pledged to unite with radical students to topple the republic's Communist government and win freedom from Moscow.

Delegates from Rukh, which has spearheaded a rebirth of national sentiment in the Ukraine, packed an assembly hall in the capital, Kiev, following student demonstrations last week that forced the republic's Communist prime minister to resign.

"A transition to a truly sovereign state will not be possible if the Communist Party is not removed from power," Sergei Golovaty, a Rukh leader, told the 2,300 delegates.

"It should be done through peaceful democratic means, through multi-party elections to the Supreme Soviet (parliament), from explosions at the Semipalatinsk testing ground."

The door making this possible has just been opened, thanks to the student movement," he said.

Leaders say the four-day congress will vote on changing Rukh's programme — from reform within the Soviet Union to outright independence for the second republic. It will also seek to unite all nationalist forces.

The congress is being held at a time of unprecedented nationalist passions in the Ukraine, where politics have grown increasingly radical since hardline party chief Vladimir Shchedybistky was forced from office last year after 17 years in power.

Thousands of students marched last week through Kiev for three days and staged hunger strikes to demand multi-party elections and to protest against government economic policies.

The students, who set up a tent city in the centre of the city, called off the protests after the Communist-dominated parliament agreed to virtually all their demands.

Their victory is seen by nationalist groups as the first step towards independence from Moscow.

rebel Soviet republics was a "test of wills" that goes far beyond what Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev expected when he unleashed his perestroika reform programme.

Addressing the National Council of World Affairs Organisation, Webster acknowledged serious food shortages in the Soviet Union but said: "They do not have a famine."

"I worry that the nationalist forces that seem to have come unleashed... will be just as troublesome in the Soviet Union as we're finding in Yugoslavia and other parts of Eastern Europe, and indeed in other parts of the world," he said.

In Yugoslavia, for instance, Webster said the failure to reach a compromise on a political structure is threatening the federation.

One can ask whether there is a threat in the struggle... dangerous organisations might get control over those instruments of long-range destruction, strategic weapons. Presently that seems very unlikely," Webster said.

"The Soviets worry about that problem more than we do, at least as much as we do, and their structure of control and command, the methods of arming and firing these weapons, have been tightly controlled on a centralised basis," he said.

But he said if the Soviet Union as a tight confederation should disintegrate, "Then we would have to see who are the people moving to take control over those particular weapons, and that would be of considerable national security interest to our country."

CIA expresses concern

In Washington, U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Webster expressed concern that nationalist forces could destabilise the Soviet Union but said he was reasonably certain for now that Soviet nuclear weapons could not fall into the hands of dangerous groups.

He said the growing power struggle between Moscow and